

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2020

1) Full name:

Amanda Thorpe

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

www.electamandathorpe.com

3) List college and law school attended, including dates of attendance, and degrees awarded.

University of Oregon, Robert D. Clark Honors College, 1998-2001, BA Sociology, emphasis on women, children, and families, magna cum laude, departmental honors

University of Oregon Law, 2003-2006, Juris Doctorate

4) List employment since graduation from law school, including years employed, your position and the nature of the practice or activity.

**Hughes, Rote, Brouhard, & Thorpe, LLP 2006-2018:
Associate (2006-2009); Partner (2010-2018)**

Cauble, Selvig, & Whittington, LLP 2018-2020, Of Counsel

General Civil Litigator including family law, construction, business, real property, real estate, landlord/tenant, contract, debtor/creditor, and probate; as well as non-litigation civil matters including estate planning, business formation, and contract.

5) List state and federal bars, courts and administrative bodies to which you are currently admitted.

Oregon State Bar

United States District Court

6) If desired, list any publications and/or articles you have authored.

n/a

7) If desired, list any community, teaching or civic activities.

Oregon Women Lawyers Board, 2015 to present

8) What is the general character of your practice? If desired, please indicate any legal areas in which you concentrate.

General Civil Litigation with an emphasis on family law

9) Describe any litigation practice in the last five (5) years and address both the courts and types of cases.

I have regularly litigated cases in Circuit Court in Josephine County, as well neighboring venues, trying cases on behalf of individuals, families, and businesses. I handle the matter from intake through resolution, whether by stipulation or trial, including motion practice as necessary.

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

I have handled or assisted with appeals when arising from cases I tried at the trial court level so I can continue to assist the client with whom I have worked.

11) Describe any experience serving as an arbitrator or mediator.

n/a

12) List any experience you have as a pro tem or municipal judge, and the names of the courts you have served.

Pro Tem Judge, Josephine County Circuit Court, 2017-2020

13) List any bar association memberships, and if desired, any offices held or committee/project assignments.

Oregon State Bar:

Family Law Executive Committee, Chair (2020), Chair Elect (2019), Secretary (2018), Listserv Monitor (2017-2019)

Policies and Procedures Committee, 2013-2017

14) Have you ever been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of any federal, state, county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so, please give details. *Do not include or parking offenses or traffic violations for which a fine of less than \$500 was imposed.*

No.

15) Have you ever been the subject of a formal disciplinary proceeding as an attorney? If so, please give the particulars and the result. ***Include only proceedings that were authorized for prosecution by the SPRB.*

No.

16) Why do you want to be a judge?

I want to be a judge because I want to help more people in my community as they navigate the legal system, regardless of what brings them to court. I have wanted to be an attorney since I was five years old. I pursued it diligently and I have loved my career as an attorney. Particularly I enjoy initial consultations because they give me an opportunity to tell someone how the justice system can (and sometimes can't) assist with their problem. It allows me to share my love for the law and passion for the justice system with people who need help. As a judge, I will be able to assist far more people with their needs than I can in my current role as a lawyer. I am ready to move from the role of an advocate for one party. I want to take on the role of a fair and neutral arbiter to put my skill, experience, and knowledge to work for my community.

17) Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.

The role of a judge is to fairly, wisely, and respectfully administer the proceedings in the courtroom. The justice system exists to serve the people, the community, by creating an avenue for the administration of justice and resolution of legal disputes. It is paramount that the judge does so with

consistency and dignity in the proceedings. There are no small matters. Even a traffic ticket can cost someone their job. The judge must be attentive and engaged every day with every matter. A judge must approach the role on the bench with a desire to serve the community and administer justice, and not any other agenda. One of the greatest challenges is to do so efficiently and effectively so that each person, regardless of the outcome, knows that his/her side was heard and fairly considered by the judge.

18) Briefly describe a case, or a legal issue on which you worked, of which you are particularly proud, or which is reflective of your legal ability, work ethic, judicial philosophy, or temperament.

After 14 years there are so many things I could draw on. I can think of cases where the client had a serious problem with real obstacles to a good resolution. On many such matters I was able to work with the client to improve the outcome through honest and direct assessment of the matter, persistent advocacy, and diligent, even creative, problem solving. I can think of cases where my legal analysis was the star and I was able to achieve a positive outcome through smart and skilled legal argument. I can think of cases where personalities clashed and I was able to help the client navigate those troubled waters and not only resolve the immediate dispute but reduce conflict for a more sustainable resolution. What consistently comes through all of those scenarios is honesty. And it isn't always easy. It can be hard to tell someone their case won't succeed, or their goals are not achievable. Yet it is essential to good legal representation to be clear, direct, and honest. The experience of spending fourteen years giving people an honest assessment of their legal issues, directly to them, will serve me well as a judge and demonstrates that I am capable of making deliberate, informed and honest decisions on legal matters. I do not shrink from the considerable responsibility of a judge. I have demonstrated my commitment to serving the justice system and my clients with integrity, honesty and compassion. I will carry that through every day on the bench.

19) Briefly describe an issue, related to Oregon's justice system, that concerns you, or that you have interest in working toward improving.

The COVID 19 crisis presents significant challenges to the courts, including how to utilize technology to operate safely. While participating in work groups regarding family law cases, I have seen the ways in which technology and determination can increase access to justice even in a time of crisis. COVID 19 is the challenge that no one wanted. However, through commitment to serving the legal needs of our communities and being open to technology and change we have the opportunity to advance our Justice System. I want to continue this work to not just survive the crisis, but improve services and access to justice.

20) Briefly describe a legal figure, personal, fictional or historical, whom you admire and why.

I admire Sandra Day O'Connor for her journey and her service. Justice O'Connor faced challenges in her career and yet wasn't deterred from her passion for the law. She was accomplished and committed to service. The first woman to serve as majority leader of state senate and the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court. But more than her resume and trail blazing, I admire her work. As an Associate Justice for the Supreme Court she came to her seat without a political agenda. She was widely respected for her measured, intelligent, and well-reasoned decisions. Often a "swing vote" she did not become entrenched in ideology, but rather applied the law justly to each issue that came before the court. Her exemplary record of service is inspirational.

21) State any other information that you regard as pertinent to your candidacy.

I am asking for your vote because I want to serve our community. I know and love this community. After serving clients here for fourteen years, and as a Pro Tem Judge for three years, I have the experience and demonstrated commitment needed to serve Josephine County as Circuit Court Judge.