

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2024

1) Full name:

Robyn Ridler Aoyagi

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

<https://www.retainjudgeaoyagi.com>

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

Harvard Law School, J.D., cum laude, 1996-1999

Tufts University, B.A. English, magna cum laude, and Community Health Certificate, 1990-1995

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

Judge, Oregon Court of Appeals, Salem, July 2017 to present

Attorney/Partner, Tonkon Torp LLP, Portland, 2000-2017 (civil litigation)

Judicial Clerk, D.C. Court of Appeals, Washington, D.C., 1999-2000

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

Please see the "Selected Publications and Presentations" section on the Professional Background page of my campaign website.

<https://www.retainjudgeaoyagi.com/professional-background>

7) List community, teaching (Continuing Legal Education or otherwise) or civic activities.

Please see the "Community and Bar Service" section on the Professional Background page of my campaign website.

<https://www.retainjudgeaoyagi.com/professional-background>

8) Prior to your becoming a judge, what was the general character of your legal practice? Where appropriate indicate any legal areas in which you concentrated.

I practiced complex civil litigation at one of Portland's largest law firms. I was in general litigation for my first eight years in practice, including doing quite a bit of securities litigation. In 2008, I transitioned into appellate work and motions practice, which was my specialty until 2017, when I was appointed to the bench.

9) List your judicial experience, including as a pro tem, and/or service on an administrative tribunal, or justice, municipal, tax, circuit, or appellate court.

I have served on the Oregon Court of Appeals since July 2017.

10) Describe the general character of your judicial work over the past five years. Indicate the nature of the cases over which you preside, any specialty courts or court programs, and any legal areas in which you concentrate.

I have worked on nearly every type of case while serving on the Oregon Court of Appeals. Our docket includes criminal, civil, post-conviction, domestic relations, workers compensation, juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency, civil commitment, administrative, land use, and nearly every other type of case possible. I have been the Presiding Judge for Department 3 since January 2023, which means that I manage a three-judge panel. I have written literally hundreds of opinions while serving on the court.

11) Describe any judicial experience in appellate courts not included above.

See above.

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

I served as a court-appointed mediator a few times while in private practice.

13) List any bar association memberships. Where appropriate, list officer positions, committee assignments or other notable work.

I am currently a member of OWLS and the Multnomah Bar Association.

14) Describe any bar association or judicial department committees, task forces, or special projects in which you have been involved.

I am currently on the Oregon Judicial Conduct Committee, since 2021.

I was a member of the Executive Committee for the Oregon State Bar Appellate Practice Section from 2011 to 2017, including serving as Chair in 2015.

I was a member of the Executive Board of the American Bar Association (ABA) Council of Appellate Lawyers (CAL) from 2014 to 2017. I also chaired an E-Briefing Project for the ABA in 2015-2016.

15) 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 parking offenses or traffic violations for which a fine of less than \$500 was imposed.

No.

16) Have you ever been the subject of a formal disciplinary proceeding as an attorney or judge? If so, please give the particulars and the result. *Include formal proceedings only.*

No.

17) What attracted you to a judicial career?

The opportunity to work in public service.

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

I believe that everyone is entitled to a fair hearing of their case and that judges should interpret and apply the law with the same care and diligence in every case.

19) 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.

I prefer not to discuss individual cases, given my current judicial position.

20) Briefly describe an issue, related to Oregon's justice system, that is of particular interest or concern to you, or that you have interest in working toward improving.

Timely resolution of cases is a longstanding issue of concern to me. Since joining the Court of Appeals, I have been actively engaged in efforts to reduce the court's backlog, so that we can provide timely decisions that help litigants achieve resolution sooner than later. It is very difficult to handle the case volume with our current staffing levels, but it is important that we vigorously continue our efforts to issue timely decisions.

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

Bryan Stevenson. Throughout his career, including as the Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, Mr. Stevenson has done incredible work as a public interest lawyer. He is also an extremely moving and inspiring speaker. His dedication to improving the judicial system and raising public awareness about the role of the judicial system in society is very impressive.

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

Please see my campaign website for additional information.