

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2024

1) Full name:

Martin Carl Habekost

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

HabekostforJudge.org

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

Willamette University College of Law – JD

Loma Linda University – MA, BA

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

During my second year of law school, I was hired as a law clerk at O’Neill, Evans, Swogger & Cowan which was a general-practice law firm. When I graduated, I was offered an associate position which I accepted. I worked for that law firm for seven years. The following two years, I worked for myself with my wife, Jill Foster, in an office where she was an associate attorney. In 2000, I returned to join the law firm as a partner of O’Neill, Evans, Cowan & Habekost. In 2002, I joined one of my partners and formed a new law firm of Rockwell, Cowan & Habekost where I worked until returning to solo practice in late 2006. I have since continued to be a solo practitioner.

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

Oregon

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Solo practice/trial lawyer

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

Criminal defense and juvenile law in Marion and Polk Counties.

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

Briefed and argued State v. Johnson, 186 Or App 186 (2003); In Re: Gabriel, 158 Or App 566 (1999); State v. Kramer, 111 Or App 452 (1992); Anderson v. DMW, 105 Or App 226 (1991)

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.

N/A

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

Marion County Judicial Selection Committee

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?

For 33 years, my role has been that of a practicing attorney obtaining knowledge, experience and temperament.

Consider what is needed to administer a fair and impartial system of law and then the individuals who will provide the justice we all expect. One builds upon the next.

This is where I seek your trust and support in electing me as Judge.

Administering our laws fairly, without bias or preconceived views is tantamount to our way of life.

This is precisely why I am seeking the position.

We're in this together. Justice is our job and we each have a role.

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 citizens of Marion County expect public safety and a common-sense approach to justice which is fair and unbiased.

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.

I often represent difficult clients who have had previous attorneys unable to complete the task at hand. I have the temperament and ability to handle complicated cases with complex human drama treating all involved with dignity and respect in an emotionally charged environment.

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

The broken indigent defense system is not only a disservice to those accused but the inability to prosecute cases compromises public safety.

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

Every mentor I have met who took time out of a busy day to teach, encourage, and remind me to be professional while being diligent.

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

Extensive trial experience