

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2024

1) Full name:

Christine Kantas Herbert

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

CKHFORJCJ.COM

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

National University, San Diego, AA. 1986

National University, San Diego, B.A. Legal Studies. 1989

Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego. J.D. 1997

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

I worked full-time as a legal assistant and attended all my college at night, including law school.

Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps,

San Diego. 1988-1997 (legal assistant: trial lawyers)

Jackson Co. Circuit Court, Law Clerk: Hon. Phil Arnold (ret'd now)

Southern Oregon Public Defenders 2000 – 2003 (crim defense atty)

Self Employed, contractor w/ Office of Public Defense Commission 2003 – present; Administrator: Rogue Valley Defenders, LLC (2018 – present)

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

Oregon State Bar

U.S. District Court

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

**"The Best Interest Standard", *Family Law Quarterly*, ABA. (1996).
Thornton, Christine.**

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

CASA 1992 – 1996 (San Diego);

**Rogue Retreat (non-profit serving homeless): Board member;
executive Committee member.**

Resolve (non-profit mediation services): Former Board member

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

Criminal defense; juvenile law; custody establishment & modification

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

I regularly try cases to juries and the bench. In the last 5 years, I have tried multiple murder cases, juvenile delinquency cases, custody trials, restraining orders and contempt cases. All of these cases would be in the Circuit Court, mainly in Jackson County, but occasionally in Josephine County.

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

None

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

None

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

None

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

Oregon State Bar, Juvenile Law Executive Committee (Past Chair).

Oregon State Bar, Disciplinary Section (Trial panel)

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 serve my community differently. I've been a trial lawyer in Jackson Co for 24 years now. I'm ready to use my background, training and experience to serve as a judge.

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.

A good judge must be able to objectively listen. She must have patience with all litigants and exhibit a calm temperament. She should care about and understand the complexity of issues and how they connect with the law. She should render decisions thoughtfully, confidently without bias or subconscious prejudice. She must exude leadership with the highest level of ethical conduct on and off the bench.

Being a judge isolates one from lawyer friends and subjects one to constant scrutiny and commentary. A judge must be strong enough to gracefully handle criticism in whatever form.

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.

As a juvenile defender, I advocated to stop shackling of youth in Jackson County's juvenile court. I presented as a speaker at an OCDLA CLE conference and legislation swiftly followed.

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

I believe access to justice can be improved state-wide, particularly for our veterans and disabled folks. I envision allowing remote court sessions for those who have difficulty getting to court. Our state court system has the capacity through WebEx to allow for remote court sessions. I also believe the court's website could include an interactive or "chat" session for people with questions for clerks. This would enable everyone access to court and information without having to physically go to the building.

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

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: she was a champion for civil rights. I admired her perseverance despite obstacles she endured as both a woman lawyer and an advocate for justice.

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

Our bench needs someone committed to work hard, open to assist the bench in any way needed for the benefit of the community. I am the right choice for this position.