

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2024

1) Full name:

Jesse Chandler Margolis

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

N/A

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

California State University, Sacramento, BA, English 1989

Northwestern School of Law, Lewis and Clark College, JD, 1992

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

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial District January 2007 to present

Attorney, Olin & Margolis, PC, 1998-2006

Attorney and Assistant Director, Southwestern Oregon Public Defenders Services, Inc. 1993-1998

5) List state and federal bars, courts and administrative bodies to which you are presently admitted and the date of admission. If desired, list previous admissions.

Oregon State Bar, 1992 to present

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

N/A

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

Past Rotary Club president and member. Rotary exchange student host. Law Day organizer and presenter. Speaker at various civic organizations and high school classes.

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.

General practice, including litigation and some appellate work.

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.

Circuit Court Judge from 2007 to present.

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 hear all types of matters filed in Circuit Court in this judicial district, including criminal, civil, family law, traffic, small claims, probate, civil commitment, juvenile cases, and appeals from municipal courts. I have also presided over cases in other judicial districts.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Curry County Bar Association since 1992.

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

Member of the Advisory Commission on Prison Terms and Parole Standards.

Board member of the Oregon Judges Charitable Foundation.

Member of the Oregon Judicial Conference Judicial Conduct Committee.

Member of the Local Family Law Advisory Committee for Coos and Curry Counties.

Chair of the Curry Advisory Committee on Court Security and Emergency Preparedness.

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?

I was attracted to a judicial career primarily by two things. First was encouragement and support from colleagues. Second was my desire spend more time working in the courtroom where my experience as a lawyer could best be put to use.

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 a judge's role is to allow parties an opportunity to be heard and to decide cases justly under the law. Being a good judge requires patience, humility, honesty, and the ability to provide good legal decisions while dealing with a high volume of cases. A judge must have the ability to listen, effectively evaluate testimony and arguments and be decisive. One of the greatest challenges for a circuit court judge results from switching from the role of a lawyer and advocate in court who asks for certain decisions to be made to becoming a person who makes those decisions. When an attorney becomes a judge, they no longer are on one side or the other, and instead must make decisions according to the facts and law without fear or favor.

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.

An example of a case which demonstrates my legal ability is State v. Clark, 284 Or App 197(2017). In that case, numerous complicated evidentiary issues arose during a pretrial hearing and during trial regarding the exclusion of portions of testimony from an expert witness neuropsychologist. The Court of Appeals provided a detailed opinion setting forth the basis for affirming the trial court rulings.

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.

I believe there is opportunity to increase the ease and efficiency with which litigants access the courts. This includes improving the ability of all persons to understand and assert their rights in a neutral process. While Courts in Oregon have made tremendous strides in this area, I look forward to continued improvement.

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

I admire my grandfather, Ben Margolis, who worked tirelessly as a lawyer and who, even at great personal cost, was always willing to stand up for his clients. I admire him for those things and for his great legal mind.

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

For the last 17 years I have been honored to serve as a Circuit Court Judge. In that time, I believe I have served the people of this Judicial District with integrity while seeking justice and fairness under the law. During this time, I have worked to continue to learn and improve the quality of the service I provide as a judge. I thank those who have given me the opportunity to continue to do so by supporting me in this role.