

## Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2024

1) Full name:

**Melvin Oden-Orr**

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

**None**

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

**Judge Oden-Orr earned her law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law, in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois in 1996. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of California at Los Angeles, California in 1993.**

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

- **Circuit Court Judge, Multnomah County (2018 to present), general bench;**
- **Chief Hearings Officer, City of Portland, (2016 to 2018), land use review and appeals, and appeals under the City of Portland City Code appeals;**
- **Principal Attorney, Oden-Orr Law (2005 to 2016), representing individuals, businesses, non-profits and governmental agencies in business transactions and civil litigation;**
- **Associate General Counsel, Portland Development Commission (2005 to 2005), corporate counsel in agency transactions;**
- **Assistant General Counsel, TriMet (2000-2004), corporate counsel in transactional matters and civil litigation defense;**
- **Associate Attorney, Tarlow Jordan & Schrader (1999 to 2000), representing individuals and business in transactional and civil litigation matters;**
- **Associate Attorney, Lane Power Spears Lubersky LLP (1996 to 1999), representing individuals and business in transactional and civil litigation matters.**

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, since 1996**

**Washington State Bar, since 2006 (voluntarily resigned)**

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.

- **Adjunct Professor, Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College, Spring 2002**
- **Member, Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics**
- **Chair, Advocacy Committee, City Club of Portland: The GED: Better 2nd Chances for a Basic Education, 2014**
- **Research Committee, City Club of Portland: The GED: Better 2nd Chances for a Basic Education, 2013**
- **Member, Board of Directors, Albina Community Bank, April 2014-Present**
- **City of Portland Fair Contracting Forum, September 2011 to 2013**
- **Appointed, Oregon State Construction Contractors Board, (November 2011 to June 2015)**
- **Appointed, City of Portland, Design Review Advisory Committee, 2006-09**
- **Chair (former), Board of Directors, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiative, Inc. (PCRI), 2006-April 2014**
- **Appointed, Multnomah County Charter Review Committee, 2003-04**
- **Chair (former), Board of Directors, Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon, 2006-2014**
- **Chair (founding), Diversity Section of the Oregon State Bar, 2002-03**
- **Chair, Board of Directors, Youth Employment Institute, 2000-02, 2006**
- **Member, North/Northeast Portland Brownfield Community Advisory Committee, 2000**
- **University of Illinois College of Law, Recent Alumni Advisory Board, 1997-99**

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.

**Immediately before being appointed, I served as the Chief Hearings Officer for the City of Portland hearing land use reviews and appeals, as well as appeals under the city code.**

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.

**Chief Hearings Officer, City of Portland, July 2016 to January 2018, overseeing the office responsible for conducting hearings on code violation complaints filed by the City of Portland; land use appeals and public hearings; and other appeals arising under the Portland City Code.**

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 serve as a member of the general bench, hearing civil and criminal cases. In addition, I do a regular rotation on the probation violation docket, and often provide vacation coverage for many of the treatment court dockets.**

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

**N/A**

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

- **Member, OSB Fee Arbitration Task Force, 2010**
- **Arbitrator, Multnomah County Circuit Mandatory Arbitration Program, 2016 (resigned)**
- **Mediator, Multnomah County Small Claims Mediation Program, 2009 to 2016**
- **Arbitrator, OSB Fee Arbitration Panel, 2005 to 2016**

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

- **Chair (founding), Diversity Section of the Oregon State Bar, 2002-03**
- **Oregon State Bar House of Delegates, 2002-2018**
- **Multnomah Bar Association, Committee to Advance Equality in the Profession and Justice System, 1997-2000**

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

- **Appointed, Oregon Bench and Bar Commission on Professionalism, 2024 to present.**
- **Appointed, Council on Court Procedure, 2022 to present.**
- **Appointed, Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, 2020 to present (served as chair and vice chair)**

- **Appointed, Oregon Judicial Department Strategic Campaign, Judicial Sponsor on Fines and Fees, 2020 to 2023**
- **Appointed, Oregon Supreme Court Council on Inclusion and Fairness, 2019 to 2024**

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?

**My desire to improve the diversity of the bench.**

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 am committed to procedural fairness.**

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 choose not to answer.**

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 am committed to increasing confidence in the justice system.**

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

**I choose not to answer.**

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

**N/A**