

## Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2024

1) Full name:

**Johan Russell Pietila**

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

**[www.pietilaforjudge.org](http://www.pietilaforjudge.org)**

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

**Willamette University College of Law 2011-2014**

**Portland State University 2008-2010**

**Portland Community College 2004-2009**

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

- **Jackson County Counsel's Office – April 2020 – Present** Sr. Asst. County Counsel. Civil Litigation
- **Jackson County District Attorney – October 2015 – April 2020.** Deputy District Attorney II. Criminal Prosecution.
- **Weiselman Law Group – May 2012 – October 2015** Law Clerk/Attorney. Criminal Defense
- **Oregon Water Resources Dept.** Summer 2013. Law Clerk

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

**Oregon**

**Oregon District Court**

**Oregon Court of Appeals**

**United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**

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

**N/A**

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

**Medford Rotary Club**

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

**Civil Litigation—Government**

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

**Civil Litigation in State and Federal Courts** Employment Law, Section 1983, Government law, Civil Rights.

**Criminal Law Trial Attorney in State Court** Criminal Prosecution

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

**Oregon Court of Appeals. US Court of Appeals in the Ninth Circuit.**

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.

**1) William V. Deatherage American Inn of Court Exec. Committee (Past President)  
Sept. 2016 through Present**

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**2) Campaign for Equal Justice Steering Committee April 2022 through Present**

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3) OSB Litigation Section Executive Committee.  
Present

February 2023 through

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4) Neighborhood Livability Project

2017-2018

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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 have always wanted to involve myself in the community and serve the public. I decided then to focus on law, enrolling in law school with the hope of effecting change in my community—specifically with the goal of promoting an all-inclusive justice system, with particular focus on mental health, drug addiction, and drug related crimes.**

**I am raising my family in this community, and have a passion for justice, community safety and security, and quality of life in the County. I believe that my core belief system surrounding our system of justice, my public service experience, and my educational and professional background make me an excellent candidate for a judicial position; I would be honored to continue my career in this 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.

**A judge should be approachable, open-minded, and above all reliable in upholding the law. A judge should understand the many facets of the law. I believe it is demanded of judges to show a respect for the process, each of the parties involved, and the rule of law. That respect should be obvious in the way they communicate, the way they listen, and the way they preside over the matters before them. This can include compassionate accountability. A judge should provide citizens with peaceful and just resolutions to disputes without bias or self-interest. This can involve difficult decision making while setting aside political or personal beliefs.**

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.

**Rather than a particular case, my time as a prosecutor for the Drug and Gang Task Force, involved many complex cases, confidential informants, an multiple parties and attorneys. It required me to communicate effectively and openly with opposing counsel while simultaneously understanding their perspectives and negotiating agreements that uphold the philosophy of equity and justice. A prosecutor is also in many ways an intermediary between the private citizens and the criminal justice system, and I take pride in my reputation for being approachable, direct, and forthright with both colleagues and community members alike. I pride myself in the work product and reputation I fostered during this time.**

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

**The public defender shortage is very concerning. Additionally, I would like to see a better developed relationship between the Courts and the V.A., as a way to utilize resources jointly. It is vital for Oregon Courts to provide equal and fair access to the justice system at a reasonable cost, and without overburdening the tax-payers. This includes being smart on crime, and fully utilizing, building relationships with, and understanding the specialty courts.**

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

**Erin Brockovich. I appreciate her dedication, and passionate pursuit of justice, i.e. the right things should happen for the right reasons.**

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

**While this is an apolitical position by design, I consider endorsements to be similar to listing references on a job application. With that in mind I am pleased to announce my campaign for judge has been endorsed by the following individuals from different political parties: Jackson County District Attorney, Beth Heckert; Jackson County Sheriff Nate Sickler; Former Medford Chief of Police and Phoenix City Councilman Scott Clauson; Former Oregon Representative Al Densmore; and the Southern Oregon Fraternal Order of Police.**