

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2024

1) Full name:

Christopher Andrew Ramras

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

N/A

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

Willamette University College of Law, 1993-1996, J.D., University of California at San Diego, 1984-1988, B.A. in Psychology, minor in Cultural Anthropology

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

United States Air Force, 1996-2001. J.A.G. attorney. Handled some civil matters, prosecutor within the Base Legal Office from 1996 – 1999, Area Defense Counsel from 1999-2001. Dover Air Force Base, DE.

Smith, Freed and Eberhard, 2001 – 2002. Civil practice.

Multnomah County District Attorney Office, 2002 – 2017. Prosecuted wide variety of serious criminal cases, to include Aggravated Murder, Murder, Rape, Sodomy and other sex crimes. Senior Deputy District Attorney in charge of violent crimes unit from 2012 – 2017.

Circuit Court Judge from 2017 – present. Preside over a wide variety of cases, including civil and criminal.

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, 1996 – present.

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

Have written “Tips from the Bench” articles as needed for the Multnomah County Bar newsletter.

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

Sexual Assault Response Team (2012 – 2017) member.

Presentations to immigrant groups regarding the United States Legal System.

Serve on Executive Board for the Owen Panner Inns of Court.

Participated in various fund-raising activities for Child Care.

Spearheading efforts to form a Veterans Court in Multnomah County.

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.

Mostly criminal prosecution, although I worked as the base public defender for two years while in the Air Force.

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 for State of Oregon, Multnomah County from 2017 – 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 have presided over numerous criminal and civil trials and motions in the 6 years that I have been on the bench. I regularly conduct judicial settlement conferences in serious criminal cases.

Over the past year, I have been working with various community partners to form a Veterans Court for Multnomah County.

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

N/A

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

Have conducted numerous Judicial Settlement Conferences akin to mediation.

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

Criminal law bar association.

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

Working on formation of a Veterans Court.

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.

Not applicable.

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.*

Not applicable.

17) What attracted you to a judicial career?

I've always been interested in hearing both sides of a conflict and providing a neutral viewpoint to the process.

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.

A judge's role is to be neutral, something that is often lacking in an increasingly polarized society. I believe it is important to treat all litigants and witnesses with respect and make every effort to make them as comfortable as they can be in a stressful situation. A judge must be willing to make decisions that are contrary to their own beliefs if it is accordance with what case law suggests. This is often tricky. There are often times when a particular situation has not been definitively decided, but case law suggests a particular outcome.

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 presided over State v. Nancy Brophy, a highly publicized murder trial which was covered by various media outlets, including Court Television, for the duration of the trial. The case was further complicated as it took place towards the tail end of the Covid

pandemic and measure were needed to keep all participants healthy and feeling safe. Despite the logistic difficulties with the case, I believe that my staff and I were able to prevent the case from becoming unwieldy and disorganized.

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.

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

I do not have a particular individual to comment on. I do admire the relationship between Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Anton Justice Scalia in that it showed that two very different legal and political could find common ground and even form a friendship despite their differences. I believe this is an important lesson for society as a whole given the country's current level of discord with people whose viewpoint is different than their own.

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

N/A