

Oregon State Bar
Special Meeting of the Board of Governors

November 1, 2017

9:00 a.m.

Conference Call

*The mission of the OSB is to serve justice by
promoting respect for the rule of law,
improving the quality of legal services, and
increasing access to justice.*

The Special Open Session Meeting of the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors will begin at 9:00am on November 1, 2017. Items on the agenda will not necessarily be discussed in the order as shown.

Open Agenda

1. Call to Order

2. Discuss House of Delegates Meeting Action

3. Appellate Screening Committee Recommendations [Mr. Ramfjord] Action Exhibit

The Appellate Screening Committee recommends the board consider and approve the list of “Highly Qualified” candidates for the Oregon Tax Court and the Oregon Supreme Court vacancies. The letters with the list of “Highly Qualified” applicants will be submitted to the Governor’s office by the November 3rd deadline.

Please see below links for the list of applicants for the Tax Court and Supreme Court vacancies:

Oregon Tax court:

<http://www.osbar.org/judicial/judicialvacancy.html#ortaxcourt>

Oregon Supreme Court:

<http://www.osbar.org/judicial/judicialvacancy.html#orsupcourt>

November 3, 2017

Governor Kate Brown
State Capitol Building
900 Court St. NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301

Board of Governors

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Michael D. Levelle, Portland

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Vanessa A. Nordyke, Salem

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Thomas C. Peachey, The Dalles

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Eddie D. Medina, Hillsboro

Region 5

Christine R. Costantino, Portland
Michael D. Levelle, Portland
Johnathan E. Mansfield, Portland
Per A. Ramfjord, Portland
Liani JH Reeves, Portland
Katherine von-ter-Stegge, Portland
Whitney P. Boise, Portland

Region 6

Vanessa A. Nordyke, Salem
Julia C. Rice, Salem

Region 7

Kathleen J. Rastetter, Oregon City

Region 8

John R. Bachofner, Vancouver, WA

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Robert Gratchner, Gresham
Traci Rossi, Portland
Kerry L. Sharp, Lake Oswego
Elisabeth Zinser, Ashland

Immediate Past President

R. Ray Heysell, Medford

CEO/Executive Director

Helen Hirschbiel, Tigard

Dear Governor Brown:

The Oregon State Bar's Appellate Screening Committee has completed its review of the candidates who have applied for appointment to the Oregon Supreme Court and who agreed to disclose their application materials to the OSB. Pursuant to OSB Bylaws, the Committee has conducted an in-depth review of each application and candidate, including in-person interviews of all candidates who opted to participate in the process.

The Committee's review process is intended to provide you with relevant, reliable, and descriptive information to help inform your appointment decision. As instructed by OSB Bylaws, our recommendation of candidates as "highly qualified" is based on "the statutory requirements of the position, as well as information obtained in the review process, and the following criteria: integrity, legal knowledge and ability, professional experience, cultural competency, judicial temperament, diligence, health, financial responsibility, and public service." A "highly qualified" recommendation is intended to be objective, and the Committee's decision not to identify any specific candidate as "highly qualified" should not be viewed as a finding that the person is unqualified. A "highly qualified" recommendation is intended to reflect the candidate's overall ability to serve on the court.

The Board of Governors is pleased that members from around the state, including a public member, serve on the Appellate Screening Committee. We also deeply appreciate the assistance and leadership of your counsel and your office during this process.

Pursuant to OSB Bylaw 2.703, the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors* has approved the following list of candidates deemed "highly qualified" for appointment to the Oregon Supreme Court:

NAMES OF CANDIDATES

The Board of Governors appreciates that there were many qualified candidates for the positions and that the review process presented a challenging task. According to OSB Bylaw 2.700, the list of the “highly qualified” candidates will be posted on the OSB webpage. Also pursuant to OSB Bylaws, we will gladly respond to any requests from your office as to whether certain other candidates meet a “qualified” standard.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. LEVELLE

Michael D. Levelle
OSB President



Per Ramfjord
OSB Board of Governors
Appellate Screening Committee Chair

cc: Misha Isaak, General Counsel, Office of the Governor

*Please note that BOG member Liani Reeves has abstained from all discussion and votes related to the review of judicial candidates.

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