

## Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2010

1) Full name:

**Ann Marie Simmons**

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

**425 SE Jackson  
Roseburg, OR 97470**

**(541) 673-5528**

3) Web site (if applicable):

**[www.AnnMarieSimmonsforJudge.com](http://www.AnnMarieSimmonsforJudge.com)**

4) List high school, college and law school attended, including dates of attendance, degrees awarded and your reasons for leaving each school if no degree from that institution was awarded.

**Dodge City Senior High School, Dodge City, Kansas 1985-1988 Diploma**

**University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 1988-1992 BA Political Science**

**Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri 1995-1998 J.D.**

**Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon  
1997-1998 (Visiting Student)**

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

**Standard Insurance Company (Summer 1998) Temporary Law Clerk**

**Review of files in preparation for state market conduct audits.**

**Douglas County District Attorney's Office (October 1998 to April 2006) Deputy District Attorney**

**Prosecution of misdemeanor and felony adult cases.**

**Douglas County Juvenile Department (April 2006 to February 2010) Deputy District Attorney**

**Prosecution of juvenile misdemeanor and felony cases, as well as prosecution of juveniles charged as adults.**

6a) List state and federal bars, courts and administrative bodies to which you are presently admitted and the date of admission.

**Member of Oregon State Bar      admitted in October 1998**

6b) List any previous admissions, including dates, and the reason why you are no longer admitted.

**None**

7) List publications and/or articles you have authored.

**None**

8) List community, teaching or civic activities.

**Instructor for prosecutors and law enforcement in prosecuting drugged drivers; member of Parent Teacher League, St. Paul Lutheran Church and School; volunteer for Rotary Festival of Lights.**

9) What is the general character of your practice? Indicate the nature of your typical clients and mention any legal areas in which you concentrate.

**As a prosecutor for Douglas County, I represented the State of Oregon in criminal cases.**

10) What percentage of your practice is litigation?

**As a prosecutor, 100 % of my practice was litigation of criminal cases.**

11) Do you regularly appear in court?

**I appeared in court on a daily basis.**

12) What percentage of your litigation practice in the last five years was in:

Federal Trial Courts: **0**

Federal Appellate Courts: **0**

State Trial Courts: **100%**

State Appellate Courts: **0**

Administrative Bodies: **0**

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

**As a Deputy District Attorney, I prosecuted criminal cases in Douglas County Circuit Court. I negotiated and tried a variety of misdemeanor and felony cases, in both adult and juvenile court. I also acted as the primary back-up for the dependency prosecutor.**

14) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

**None**

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

**None**

16) State the approximate number of cases you have tried to conclusion in courts of record during each of the past five years (or longer period, if you desire), indicating whether you were sole, associate or lead counsel.

**January through February, 2010                      3 cases tried as sole counsel**

**January through December, 2009                      6 cases tried as sole counsel**

**January through December, 2008                      5 cases tried as sole counsel**

**January through December, 2007                      20 cases tried as sole counsel**

**January through December, 2006                      11 cases tried as sole counsel**

**January through December, 2005                      5 cases tried as sole counsel**

**January through December, 2004**

**13 cases tried as sole counsel**

17) State the approximate number of cases you have handled in state and federal appellate courts in the last five years, indicating whether you were lead or co-counsel. Include citations of reported cases.

**None**

18) List any experience you have as a pro tem or municipal judge, and the names of the courts you have served.

**None**

19) List all bar association memberships, offices held and committee assignments.

**Member of the Oregon State Bar, Douglas County Bar, Oregon District Attorneys Association, and National District Attorneys Association**

20) 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**

21) 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**

22) Why do you want to be a judge?

**I believe that being a judge is the highest purpose to which an attorney can aspire. I have had the opportunity to try cases before nearly every judge in Douglas County over the past 11 years, and I have learned a great deal that I am eager to apply for the benefit of the parties and the attorneys.**

23) 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 the judicial role involves more than putting on a black robe and handing down rulings. A judge must understand the structure of the law, think quickly, and be decisive. However, a judge should not presume that she knows everything; instead, she should have the capacity to learn and humility to be taught. A judge must hold people accountable for their acts or omissions, but treat all with dignity and respect—even those against whom the judge may be ruling. A judge must be efficient in her use of time and resources. In short, and above all, a judge should use common sense in filling the role.**

**In the best of times, this is a significant task. In economic hard times, a judge must look for ways to step forward to be part of the solution. For a judge, hard work should be the norm, and doing the right thing must be expected.**

24) 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.

**As a prosecutor, I worked on a variety of cases, including cases involving the victimization of children. These cases are often difficult for any person to digest. They are particularly difficult due to the psychological and emotional issues involved, as well as issues of communication and sensitivity to the relationships involved. I feel it is particularly important to protect young victims from feeling as though they have been victimized again by the system. In preparing for cases where it was necessary for a young victim to mentally relive a trauma, my experience as a mother helped me to connect with younger victims. I found that meeting with victims and their families and explaining the process in understandable terms helped to alleviate some of their concerns.**

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

**I am concerned about public relations challenges faced by Oregon's justice system. With limited interaction, many members of the public assume the worst parts of the system—the time, expense, impersonal treatment, and stress of litigation—are inherent to the system. I believe that the way a judge deals with the public has a tremendous ability to improve this perception. A judge should treat time as the valuable commodity that it is, treat participants in the legal process with dignity and respect, and try always to be efficient with taxpayers' resources.**

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

**I admire former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. She began on a ranch in Arizona and graduated from Stanford's undergraduate and law schools. During each stop of her career, she demonstrated perseverance and common sense—rising from an Arizona deputy county attorney to an assistant attorney general, to the state Senate, to majority leader, to a judge in an Arizona state trial court, court of appeals, and eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court.**

**However, the most remarkable thing about Justice O'Connor was not her meteoric career; instead, it was her consistently pragmatic, common-sense approach to interpreting the law. During her career she often provided the swing vote on a divided court, and her even-handed tone set the bar for her successors on the court.**

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

**My husband of 17 years and I have made Douglas County our home by choice. We are rearing our three sons here, and we believe it is our duty to teach our children the importance of service to our community. Service can take many forms, but we especially enjoy volunteer activities like Rotary's Festival of Lights, which involves the whole family. I believe the area in which I can best serve my community is from the bench, where I can contribute to the quality of the judicial system. That system affects every life in the county, even if only as indirectly by the opportunity cost of the taxpayer resources used to fund the system. I am prepared to serve my Douglas County community as judge, and will do all I can to improve that system.**