

Multnomah County Judges and Referees

Oregon's 4TH Judicial District

October 15, 2008

Criminal and Civil Judges

The judges assigned to Criminal and Civil Court hear all criminal cases (misdemeanors and felonies), as well as, infractions and traffic violations. They also hear civil actions (lawsuits), including small claims and landlord/tenant disputes.

Family and Juvenile Judges

The judges assigned to Family Court hear all domestic relations (divorce and child custody) cases, juvenile court matters (dependency, delinquency and termination of parental rights), as well as probate, and civil commitment cases. The Family Court judges also hear misdemeanor criminal cases scheduled in Domestic Violence Court.

Criminal and Civil Referees

The referees are judicial officers who serve as pro tempore (Latin for "for the time being" or temporary) circuit court judges under appointment from the Oregon Supreme Court. During their appointments they have the same authority as any other circuit judge. They are employees of the Oregon Judicial Department as Referees. The referees usually sit in the following courts: small claims, landlord and tenant, civil commitments, traffic arraignments and trials, and the Justice Center Courts, and they may occasionally have other assignments. The referees also preside over misdemeanor criminal cases, including jury trials, in the Gresham court facility.

Family and Juvenile Referees

The referees serving in the Family Court are judicial officers. They serve both as referees and on occasion as pro tempore (Latin "for the time being" or temporary) circuit court judges under appointment from the Oregon Supreme Court. As referees they are employees of the Oregon Judicial Department. Decisions they make while serving as referees may be reviewed by a circuit court judge. The referees usually hear the following matters: juvenile dependency and juvenile law violation (delinquency), probate, family abuse restraining orders, civil commitments and other family law matters.