



# JUSTICE 2020: A VISION FOR OREGON'S COURTS



## VISION

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### **Oregon Courts: Equal Justice in the 21st Century**

In the 21st century, Oregon's courts lead the nation in providing fair, accessible, and timely justice to promote the rule of law, protect individual rights, and resolve conflicts.

We respect, reflect and respond to the diverse people we serve.

We earn public trust, build partnerships, and promote safe, caring and engaged communities.

## STATEMENT OF VALUES

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**Oregon Courts provide justice and uphold the rule of law**

### **WE VALUE:**

- Fairness, equality and integrity
  - Openness and timeliness
- Independence, impartiality and consistency
  - Excellence, innovation and accountability
- Respect, dignity, public service, and community well-being

# ACCESS

**OUR GOAL:** To Ensure Access to Court Services for All People

## WHAT WE ENVISION:

In Oregon, everyone has equal access to justice. Our courts provide all people with the help and information they need to resolve their disputes quickly, fairly, and at reasonable cost. We help to ensure legal representation for those who need it. Our courts are safe, understandable, easy to use, free of barriers, and culturally responsive. We use state-of-the-art technology to ensure that court services meet people's diverse needs, with information available anywhere and anytime.

## SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Develop Targeted Outreach Materials and Programs
- Create a Public-Friendly Judicial Information Technology Network
- Remove "Status" Barriers Preventing Equal Access to Justice
- Remove "Physical" Access Barriers to, and Within, Court Facilities
- Provide Safe, Educational Waiting Space in Each Court Facility
- Establish Legal Support Information Services
- Provide "One-Stop" Family Law Assistance Centers
- Provide Self-Help Centers for Litigants without Lawyers
- Increase Courts' Cultural Awareness and Responsiveness
- Increase Capacity to Respond to Aging Population's Legal Needs



# ADMINISTRATION

**OUR GOAL:** To Make Courts Work for People

## WHAT WE ENVISION:

In Oregon, our courts are impartial, independent, and accountable. As an equal branch of government, we work closely with the executive and legislative branches to ensure equal justice for all, preserve judicial discretion, and secure adequate resources to do our work. The judicial branch and each local court have a strategic plan to implement our unified vision and measure our progress. We have a state office that oversees an integrated state court system, promotes efficient statewide improvement, and supports local courts in responding to community and statewide needs.

Our courts provide prompt, courteous, and effective service in safe and comfortable facilities. We deliver the highest quality of justice, supported by excellent people, tools, and education. We reflect Oregon's diverse population, understand many cultures, and speak many languages.

## SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Develop Strategic Planning System to Implement Vision
- Link Strategic Planning to Budgeting and Resources
- Promote the Vision and Strategic Planning Process to Court and Community
- Educate the Executive and Legislative Branches on the Vision
- Develop Caseflow Management Principles for "Problem-Solving" Courts
- Promote Team-Based Processes
- Increase Customer Service Education in Courts
- Increase Ethnic/Cultural Diversity of Judicial Branch Personnel
- Ensure Impartiality by Preserving Judicial Independence and Discretion
- Align Judicial Branch Research, Development, and Best Practices to Vision



# DISPUTE RESOLUTION

**OUR GOAL:** To Help People Choose the Best Way to Resolve Their Disputes

## WHAT WE ENVISION:

In Oregon, courts and their state and local partners support and provide education so that people learn about conflict resolution from their earliest years through adulthood. To prevent and resolve disputes, we work together to provide everyone with easy access to a network of excellent, culturally responsive services at diverse sites across the state and in every community. As a result, people take responsibility to resolve their disputes peacefully, often without going to court. Well informed about problem-solving services, people are able to choose the option most suited to their needs, from mediation to a timely jury trial.

## SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Offer Full Spectrum of Appropriate Dispute Resolution Services (ADR)
- Provide Latest ADR Research Data to Improve Systems
- Identify and Remove Institutional Barriers to ADR
- Eliminate Facility and Geographic Barriers to ADR
- Increase Court Involvement in ADR Outreach and Education
- Provide Judicial Branch Conflict Resolution Education
- Promote Lawyers' Role in Providing Conflict Resolution Options
- Promote Lawyers' Role and Education in Conflict Resolution Services
- Strengthen Partnerships with Government and Community Organizations
- Promote Conflict Resolution Education in Schools and Colleges



# PARTNERSHIPS

**OUR GOAL:** To Build Strong Partnerships with Local Communities to Promote Public Safety and Quality of Life

## WHAT WE ENVISION:

In Oregon, courts actively work with their public and private partners and volunteers to strengthen and protect the community. Together, we promote public safety and quality of life, improve the lives of children and families, and protect people who cannot protect themselves. We use preventive measures and effective sentencing to reduce criminal behavior.

People help us in many ways. They are involved in state and local advisory commissions, juries, volunteer programs, and outreach and education about the justice system. They identify and support new ways to help us keep communities strong and safe.

## SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Promote Judicial Branch Leaders' Commitment to Partnerships
- Promote Cooperation and Collaboration with State and Local Legal Groups
- Enable and Encourage Court, Business, and Community Partnerships
- Promote Court and School Partnerships
- Revise Judicial Canons to Support Appropriate Levels of Partnership
- Promote Greater Cooperation and Collaboration with Legislative Branch
- Promote Greater Cooperation and Collaboration with Executive Branch
- Employ Technology to Improve Sentencing Practices and Data-Sharing Systems
- Support Innovative Partnership Programs for Children and Families
- Develop Partnership Programs to Protect the Most Vulnerable



# TRUST & CONFIDENCE

**OUR GOAL:** To Earn the Public's Enduring Trust and Confidence

## WHAT WE ENVISION:

In Oregon, people trust and have confidence in their courts and actively support the justice system. They respect the rule of law as the cornerstone of democracy and approach the courts without fear. They trust their courts to defend the law vigorously and fairly and to protect the rights of individuals and society.

People value their unique role in providing equal justice for all. We value it, too. We know there can be no justice without them.

### INFORMATION

#### **Committee on the Future of the Courts Oregon Judicial Branch**

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## SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Develop Public Education Tools on the Judicial Experience
- Expand Judicial Information Office Services
- Improve the Juror Experience
- Improve Recruitment and Education of Potential Judicial Candidates
- Establish Publicized System of Offender Tracking and Reporting
- Develop Local Court Outreach and Feedback on Court Services
- Increase Cable-Based and Web-Based Outreach
- Expand Court Volunteers Programs
- Develop Business Awareness and Support
- Establish Citizen Advisory Committee

