



## **TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**LINN COUNTY**

**JAMES E. BELSHE**  
Trial Court Administrator

P.O. Box 1749, Albany, Oregon 97321

(541) 967-3802

### **INFORMATION ABOUT CONTACT WITH JUDGES**

This information is being given to you because you have requested to speak with a judge concerning a particular case, type of case, or other judicial business. Judges are prohibited by law from discussing any specific case or type of case with anyone privately. The law prohibits such contact to preserve the impartiality and neutrality of the judge. Any communication with or to a judge must be done in open court with all parties present, or by written communication with copies of the written communication sent to all parties in the case.

Even written communications sometimes are not read by a judge if they contain material which the rules of evidence may prohibit a judge from seeing, at least until all parties have had an opportunity to read the communication and be heard concerning the appropriateness of the judge reading it.

If you have concerns about community safety or the well-being of an alleged victim in a criminal case, you should contact the police or the District Attorney. If you have concerns about whether a defendant is receiving appropriate treatment or a fair trial, you should contact the defendant's attorney. If you have concerns about other types of cases, you should contact the party or attorney in that case. If you have concerns about Juvenile Court, you should contact the District Attorney, the Linn County Juvenile Department or the Department of Human Services.

If you have concerns about courthouse security, you should contact the Sheriff on the third floor. If you have concerns about court operations, court records, or procedures, you should contact James Belshe, Trial Court Administrator, in Room 107 on the first floor.

**THOMAS A MCHILL**  
**PRESIDING JUDGE**  
**LINN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT**