

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar
Support for SB 233
Senate Rules Committee
April 27, 2023**

Chair Lieber and members of the Committee,

The mission of the Oregon State Bar is to regulate the legal profession and improve the quality of legal services; support the judiciary and improve the administration of justice; and advance a fair, inclusive and accessible justice system. In that vein, the Oregon State Bar is committed to supporting a strong and independent judiciary. Keeping the judicial branch strong includes many variables, but one that is in need of attention is the matter of judicial compensation.

The judicial branch is essential to the competent and effective enforcement of the rule of law. Adequate judicial salaries are crucial to attract competent lawyers to the bench, and to retain them after appointment or election. This is especially the case for lawyers in private practice, whose salaries are generally higher than the salaries of lawyers in the public sector. A bench with a mix of attorneys from the private and public sectors is critical in order to maintain a mix of backgrounds and experience reflective of the communities they serve. Judicial salaries must at least be high enough to interest and retain successful lawyers who are inclined to public service.

Judicial salaries are a reflection of the esteem in which we hold the judicial branch. Senate Bill 233 is an important step to maintaining the strong and independent judiciary that Oregon deserves.

Sincerely yours,

Lee Ann Donaldson
OSB President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Ann Donaldson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.