

I write today in support of legislation to remove the
> unnecessary restriction as to judge's mandatory
> retirement age. As an active trial attorney I can
> sincerely state that some of the best jurists are those with
> the most life experience. It is a disservice to the
> community at large and the legal community specifically to
> force the most experienced people from the bench. Age
> is not a good indicator for vigor and effectiveness.
>
> Additionally this mandatory age limit of 75 prevents
> experienced lawyers from becoming judges as they know they
> would have a very limited opportunity to serve if they are
> under age 75 and absolutely are barred if they have reached
> age 75.. While the community and the bar do benefit
> from older lawyers in the role of mediator, mentor or active
> counsel we would all be best served if those individuals
> could serve as a judge.
> Finally I think the age limit of 75 is an unnecessary
> restriction of the voter's right to select and vote
> for the person that the voter deems most qualified.
>
> Thank you for your consideration.
>

Robert P. Van Natta

Attorney at Law

St. Helens, OR