



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Office of the State Court Administrator

**TESTIMONY ON ORS 93.272 (HB 4134, 2018) AND DISCRIMINATORY COVENANTS IN
REAL PROPERTY DEEDS AND TITLES**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT
SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

**PRESENTED BY: ERIN M. PETTIGREW, ACCESS TO JUSTICE COUNSEL FOR
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Boles, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development:

HB 4134 created a simplified court process to remove restrictions on the use of real property that were written to exclude individuals from housing based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. The Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) is committed to providing a timely, fair and accessible forum for addressing the removal of these covenants, and recognizes that the continued existence of these unlawful provisions is a painful reminder of unacceptable discriminatory practices.

We are grateful for the work of volunteers from the Oregon State Bar in creating forms for homeowners to file in their circuit court and appreciate the leadership of Representative Fahey and the other sponsors of the bill.

As background, OJD uses forms to assist litigants in all types of cases – including evictions and protective orders – to make sure they are providing the information required by statute and to help them understand the judicial process. This is especially important in cases where we have large numbers of people who are not represented by an attorney. We have a [forms web page](#) to promote access to these forms, and have some forms in an interview-based format that can be filed electronically, 24/7.

OJD will review, edit and post the HB 4134 forms on our website as soon as possible, and will continue to work with our judges and staff to promote their use.

We remain committed to supporting these efforts. Should you or your constituents have feedback about these forms, or any other forms designed to serve self-represented litigants, you may do so [here](#) (OJD Site>Forms Center>Feedback).

I would be happy to answer questions.