

**TESTIMONY ON LC 9
BEFORE THE JOINT INTERIM COMMITTEE ON THE SECOND SPECIAL SESSION
OF 2021**

December 11, 2021

**PRESENTED BY: ERIN PETTIGREW, LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COUNSEL,
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chairs Beyer and Fahey, Vice-Chairs Knopp and Wallan, and Members of the Committee, my name is Erin Pettigrew, Legislative Affairs Counsel at the Oregon Judicial Department. I offer this testimony on Legislative Concept 9, Emergency Rental Assistance, Second Special Session, 2021.

The Oregon Judicial Department is neutral on the bill, and we are prepared and ready to implement the changes contemplated. These changes will help avoid a wave of eviction filings, giving our courts time and resources to address other community needs.

Throughout the pandemic, OJD has made efforts to ensure that the rights of both landlords and tenants are protected, while giving flexibility to parties and courts.

Legislative Concept 9 provides additional protections by prohibiting landlords from filing new actions or continuing those based on nonpayment of rent if the landlord receives notice that the tenant has applied for rent assistance. In cases where nonpayment of rent is alleged, circuit courts will not schedule first appearances until after receiving notice from one of the parties that the rent assistance application is no longer pending, but no later than September 30, 2022.

The bill also requires OJD to update forms and resources. We will post information and the revised forms in several languages as we have with prior forcible entry and detainer (tenant eviction) bills passed during the pandemic.

Should you require any additional information, please contact me at Erin M. Pettigrew, Legislative Affairs Counsel, erin.m.pettigrew@ojd.state.or.us.