

**Testimony of the Oregon State Bar
in Support of SB 297
Before the House Committee on Judiciary
April 29, 2021**

Chair Bynum, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon State Bar has a three-pronged mission that includes protecting the public by regulating the legal profession, supporting the judiciary and improving the administration of justice, and ensuring that Oregon maintains a fair, inclusive and accessible justice system.

Providing access to justice requires having a well-functioning judicial branch at every level. Ensuring that the Oregon Judicial Department has highly trained and qualified staff is every bit as important as their ability retain highly qualified judges. SB 297 is one small but important step that will help the courts protect public safety and better meet the needs of Oregonians by helping them recruit and retain highly qualified judicial marshals.

The Oregon State Bar continues to support efforts by the Oregon Judicial Department to meet the needs of Oregonians who have issues before the court, and every step we can take to support them furthers our shared goal of providing access to justice for all Oregonians. We encourage the committee to support SB 297.