

**TESTIMONY ON SB 954
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
MARCH 15, 2023**

**PRESENTED BY: KAITI FERGUSON, SENIOR STAFF COUNSEL
OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT**

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kaiti Ferguson, Senior Staff Counsel at the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). I want to start by thanking Chair Prozanski, Representative Morgan, the stakeholders, and the Legislative Policy and Research Office analysts involved in developing this concept for their work and for including OJD in the discussions over the past several months.

OJD is also appreciative of the work reflected in the -1 Amendment, particularly the conforming language in Section 2(3) pertaining to the assignment of senior judges to the language in HB 2225. OJD introduced HB 2225 to continue effectively using senior judges to support court needs and maintain local authority to guide the actions of those visiting judges.

Again, OJD is appreciative of the consideration and thoughtful work that went into this concept and how it might affect OJD processes and court procedures, which we anticipate we will be able to readily implement.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.