



February 6, 2024

Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

On behalf of the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (“OADC”), which represents approximately 600 civil defense lawyers, we would like to offer our support of SB 1541.

SB 1541 adds three new circuit court judges, one each in Clackamas, Jackson, and Washington county circuit courts respectively. The Clackamas position would come on line in July 2025, after the new courthouse opens, and the other positions would be created on July 1, 2024. This bill will help ensure that everyone has meaningful access to prompt and fair resolution of disputes. The timely resolution of complex disputes requires adequate judge time and staff, and this bill will allow the judicial branch to improve the justice system and promote access, inclusion, innovation, and timely justice for all.

Access to justice is critical to our legal system. Adding judges in these key counties, even criminal judges, can help to clear capacity and relieve docket time that will free up more judicial capacity for civil litigants in our county courthouses. OADC therefore urges your strong support.

If you would like further testimony or information from any of our members on the importance of the passage of this bill to civil practitioners here in Oregon, we would be happy to help. Thank you for your consideration of OADC’s input on this important bill.

Sincerely,

OADC Government Affairs Committee

Heather Bowman – President, OADC
Dan Larsen – President-Elect, OADC
Megan Cook – Secretary/Treasurer, OADC
Lloyd Bernstein – Chair, OADC Government Affairs Committee
Molly Marcum
Daniel Schanz
Peter Tuenge
Maureen McGee (Lobbyist)