



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Oregon Supreme Court Justice Virginia L. Linder,
Court of Appeals Chief Judge Rick Haselton Announce Retirements**

Oregon Supreme Court Justice Virginia L. Linder and Court of Appeals Chief Judge Rick Haselton both announced today that they will retire at the end of this year. Linder, who has served on the Supreme Court since 2007, was the first woman to initially attain a position on that Court by election. Haselton's 21-year service on the Court of Appeals makes him the longest-serving judge in the history of that court.

Chief Justice Tom Balmer said "Today we learned we will be losing two outstanding veteran judges from the appellate bench. Gini Linder showed great courage in running for an open seat on the Supreme Court in a contested election, and her incisive intellect and deep understanding of public law issues have made her an invaluable colleague.

"Rick Haselton brought a brilliant legal mind and a clear, engaging writing style to his private law practice and then to the Court of Appeals, where he has been an outstanding leader. They both have dedicated their careers to serving the people of Oregon. I will miss them."

Linder said "I have had the honor and privilege to have served Oregonians as an attorney for 17 years and as a judge for 18 years. It is hard to leave the Court – I serve with wonderful colleagues, I love the work, and the work is profoundly important. But after more than 35 years of public service, it is time for me to move on to the next chapter of my life."

Linder graduated in 1975 from what was then Southern Oregon State College and received her law degree from the Willamette University College of Law. She served as an appellate attorney in the Oregon Department of Justice, and was appointed solicitor general – the state's top appellate lawyer – by then-Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer in 1986. She was the first woman to represent Oregon before the United States Supreme Court, when she argued and won Department of Revenue vs. ACF Industries in 1994 on an 8-1 vote. She was appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 1997, successfully ran for an open seat on the Supreme Court in 2006, and was re-elected to that post in 2012.

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Linder plans to continue to hear cases in state courts as a senior judge.

Haselton is a native Oregonian who graduated from West Albany High School, Stanford University and Yale Law School. He practiced law in Portland for 14 years, specializing in complex civil cases and appeals, before being appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1994. In 2012, he was appointed Chief Judge and also was re-elected to the court. He is active in Congregation Kesser Israel in Portland and has served as chair of the Multnomah County Legal Aid Board and many committees in the Oregon Judicial Department and Oregon State Bar.

Haselton said “Serving on the Oregon Court of Appeals has been a daily privilege and blessing, and the culmination of my lifelong dream to serve Oregonians. I want to thank my wife, Sura Rubenstein, and my daughter, USMC 2nd Lt. Malia Haselton, who sustain and inspire me.”

Haselton also plans to serve as a senior judge.

Chief Justice Balmer will appoint a Court of Appeals judge to be Chief Judge later this year.

Under Oregon law, Governor Kate Brown will appoint successors to the judicial positions being vacated by Linder and Haselton. The people appointed to those positions must stand for election in November 2016, and would serve a six-year term.

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