

Harclerod looks to renew position

■ A 15-year veteran as the district attorney for Lane County, Doug Harclerod decides to run again in 2000

By Sara Lieberth
Oregon Daily Emerald

Amidst a cadre of top-ranking state officials including Attorney General Hardy Myers and Gov. John Kitzhaber present to show their support, Lane County District Attorney Doug Harclerod announced Wednesday his intent to run for reelection to the post he has held for more than 15 years.

"I expect to campaign vigorously, explaining to the voters what the good people in the district's attorney office do and how well they do it," Harclerod said.

"My hope is that voters will return me as their district attorney for another term in office. In return, I will work hard ... maximize the use of each citizen's hard-earned tax dollars as we spend it and provide leadership into the 21st century."

"I'm very honored to have this

opportunity to endorse Mr. Harclerod's run," Kitzhaber said. "He's a remarkable criminal-justice professional and community leader."

Adding that "Doug has been a leader in a number of areas," Kitzhaber noted that chief among them, in his opinion, was the district attorney's commitment to improving the disproportionate minority populations in Oregon's criminal justice system. He cited the development of a police-stop video as an effort of the district attorney's office to ensure traffic stops are performed on the basis of behavior, not race.

Echoing his stated accomplishments, Retired Superintendent of State Police LeRon Howland called Harclerod's record "absolutely impeccable" on crime, in recognizing the special needs of crime victims and for his personal dedication to the community he serves. Prior to his election as district attorney in 1985, Harclerod was assistant district attorney of the county for 11 years.

"He's dedicated 26 years of his life to making Lane County a safe

place to live and to raise children. He has a proven ability to get things done right and to do the right thing," Howland said.

The chosen site for the announcement, the Child Advocacy

Center off Coburg Road in Eugene, itself played a starring role in the event as Harclerod seized the opportunity and called on his supporters to approve a new, larger building for the burgeoning staff and clients that have outgrown their existing space.

"The second day after I took office in 1985 I went before the board of commissioners and said we needed a victim-services program," Harclerod said.

He went on to enlist the strides his office has made since in ad-

ressing the complex issues of services to crime victims, including expanded domestic violence programs and more than \$14 million collected for the county's Family Law Division.

"We are in a building which is more than walls and a roof," he said.

"It is a place where those children who have been traumatized by sexual or physical abuse can interact with criminal-justice professionals in a friendly environment which reduces their secondary traumatization created by the criminal-justice system."

Harclerod earned his advanced law degree from the University of Oregon School of Law in 1973 after attending the University of Iowa for his undergraduate studies.

He is currently an adjunct professor at the law school, where he teaches an evening prosecution clinic.

He and his wife, Jeanne, have two children and reside in Eugene. The choice for district attorney will be a considered on the primary ballot this May.



ConCourt

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"We've already found two appointees who will go before [Student] Senate for approval probably next week," she said.

Although Gibbons said it wasn't likely the departures would stop the court's ability to rule, he admitted that the departures could affect the upcoming ASUO elections, and a case still being deliberated.

Gibbons said many times the authors of a ballot measure must bring multiple drafts to the court before it approves a final wording. There are more grievances filed around election time as well.

"This could be sort of tricky or it could not," Gibbons said. "It definitely will be a time of transition."

The situation could become worse if the new justices are not appointed by Jan. 24, the first deadline for turning in ballot measures for the ASUO election to the court. Gibbons and ASUO

Elections Coordinator Ken Best said they were certain the executive and the senate will fill the positions before any major elections decisions have to be made.

"We won't need the court in the next week," Best said. "I'm not feeling any urgency."

All three current justices are undergraduates. The ASUO Constitution requires that at least two of the seats on the court be filled by second or third year law students, Gibbons said.

Banfield's resignation does

leave the court unable to rule on a grievance filed in November by senior Scott Austin against the five summer student senators. Justice Elliot Dale removed himself from deliberation on the case due to a conflict of interest, leaving only Gibbons and Justice Daniel Vergamini to hear Austin's grievance.

Gibbons said the court was close to a decision before Banfield's announcement but will wait until the new justices can review the case and offer their input as well.

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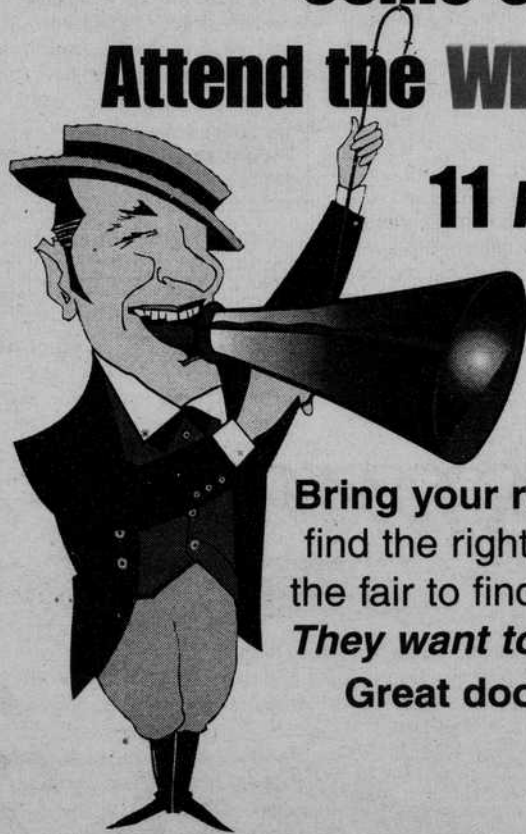
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