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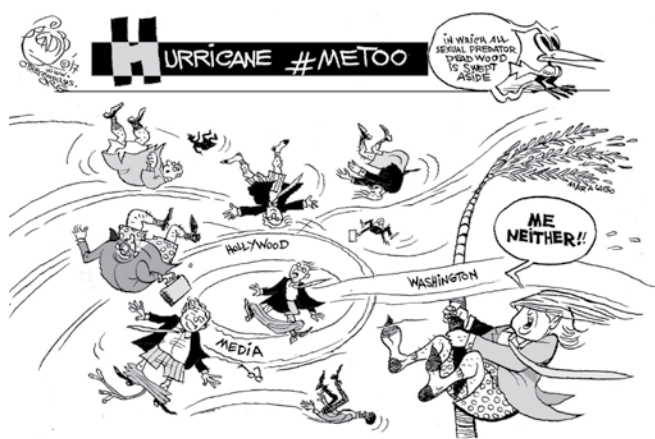
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What's on your list today?™



Adrienne C. Nelson will be the first African American to serve on the Oregon Supreme Court. Her historical appointment was made Tuesday by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown.

History Making

1st African American named to supreme court

Gov. Kate Brown announced Tuesday that she will appoint Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Adrienne C. Nelson to the Oregon Supreme Court, the first African American to serve on the state's highest court.

Brown called Nelson "a widely respected civil rights champion, whose perspective on the bench will move us closer to a shared vision of justice for all."

Nelson will bring "a new voice and wealth of experience" gained

from her 12 years on the trial bench," Brown said.

"In addition to her work in the courtroom, she has made extraordinary strides to make the trial bench more receptive to the needs and experiences of diverse and underserved communities in our state," the governor added.

Nelson will fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Jack L. Landau. The appointment is effective immediately.

Judge Nelson was appointed

to the Multnomah County circuit court bench by Gov. Ted Kulongoski in 2006. She earlier worked at Portland State University as a senior attorney and coordinator of Student Legal and Mediation Services, from 2004 to 2006. Prior to that, she worked at the Portland firm Bennett, Hartman, Morris and Kaplan, from 1999 to 2004.

Nelson began her legal career

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Ruling Validates Equality Law

Labor commissioner wins case against bakers

Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries Commissioner Brad Avakian says Oregon's protections against discrimination in public accommodations remain strong after a higher court affirmed a finding that an Oregon bakery discriminated against a couple because they were Lesbians.

The Oregon Court of Appeals last week upheld emotional distress damages for the same-sex couple, which was denied service by the Sweet Cakes bakery in Gresham. The ruling affirms the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry's finding that the owners unlawfully discriminated against



Brad Avakian

the couple in violation of the Oregon Equality Act of 2007 by denying them full and equal access to a place of public accommodation.

The court affirmed both the \$135,000 in damages and the underlining violation of the law while rejecting BOLI's finding that the Klein's public statements

represented an intent to unlawfully discriminate in the future.

Under Oregon law, businesses cannot refuse service based on sexual orientation, just as they cannot turn customers away because of race, sex, disability, age or religion.

In response to the ruling, Commissioner Brad Avakian explained that within Oregon's public accommodations law is the basic principle of human decency that every person, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, has the freedom to fully participate in society.

"For the past 10 years, the Oregon Equality Act of 2007 has protected Oregonians from unlawful discrimination in housing, employment and public places. Today's ruling sends a strong signal that Oregon remains open to all,"

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