

District Court Judge Dept. 2

Five attorneys are seeking the position of Umatilla/Morrow District Court Judge Department 2 in the May 19 primary election. Incumbent Peter Fels was appointed to the position in December to fill out the term of Judge Ralph Currin, who retired. Fels' term expires in January of 1993.

Opposing Fels for the six-year term are Jeff Wallace Morrow County District Attorney; Steven Fels, former Umatilla County assistant district attorney, Pendleton; Garry Reynolds, who has a private law practice in Hermiston; and Wallace Terry, director of the Umatilla-Morrow Public Defenders in Pendleton.

The two candidates who receive the most votes will oppose each other in the November general election. However, if one candidate receives more than 50 percent of the votes in the primary election he will be elected judge.

The Dept. 2 district court judge serves both Umatilla and Morrow Counties but presides over cases primarily in Hermiston and Heppner.



Peter Fels

Incumbent Peter Fels, 42, Pendleton, has lived in Umatilla County more than 10 years. He and his wife, Nancy Helget, have two children, eight and five years old.

Fels, who was appointed district judge in January by Governor Barbara Roberts, received a doctor of jurisprudence degree from the University of Oregon, and a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish literature from the University of California at Berkeley.

Since his appointment as judge he has brought students into the courtroom and has spoken to classes at high schools and junior high schools in the area.

Fels was regional director of the Oregon Legal Services Corporation and has had two years experience as judge pro-tem of the Tribal Court of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. He has 13 years experience in general law practice.

"The major issue in this campaign is the credibility of the court and legal system," said Fels. "My goal from the outset has been to make the court work properly by maintaining proper decorum in the courtroom, working hard, treating all people who come before the court with courtesy and respect, listening to all the evidence, and applying the law as it is written, not according to my personal views about the person or the law. I have a track record since January which proved that I have done this."

"Many of our country's well-known leaders have become involved in scandals; the Rodney King case has made the jury system suspect in many people's minds; and even problems in the courthouse in Pendleton have made many people think that the legal system is not working properly. Young people may think, 'why should I obey the law?' When they see famous criminals and leaders getting away with breaking it."

"While I don't presume that I alone can change this, I do think that my active leadership in the community, in addition to operating the court in strict conformance with the law, can help educate people, particularly young people and students, about

the legal system, and begin to restore some of the faith and confidence that have been lost."

"In addition, I am the only candidate with significant judicial experience, and I speak Spanish."

"I would appreciate your vote so I can continue to serve you," Fels concluded.



Jeff Wallace

Jeff Wallace, 42, has lived in Morrow County for the past six years. He is a native of Umatilla county. He and his wife Ronda, live in Heppner. He has four children, 14, 10, nine and one.

Wallace has been Morrow County District Attorney since 1987. He received his bachelor of science degree from the University of Oregon and a law degree from Willamette Law School. He was a deputy district attorney for Umatilla and Malheur County District Attorney's office from 1983-87, deputy district attorney-county counsel, Umatilla County District Attorney's office, 1977-78.

He is a member of the Heppner Lions Club, Heppner Elks Lodge, a board member of the Oregon Together group, Cubmaster, Heppner Cub Scout Pack No. 661, Morrow County Community Corrections Advisory Committee and sings in the Heppner Community Choir.

Wallace is a lifelong resident of Eastern Oregon, has nine years experience as a prosecutor handling a wide variety of criminal cases. He has four years of private law practice, and served as the county counsel for both Umatilla and Morrow Counties handling counties civil litigation.

"I have served as the Morrow County District Attorney since 1987 and have handled a wide variety of criminal cases, from drunk driving and domestic violence to child abuse and aggravated murder," said Wallace. "To date, I am the only district attorney in Eastern Oregon to have successfully prosecuted a death penalty case."

"I have taken a strong leadership role in protecting the rights of crime victims by establishing and chairing a multi-disciplinary child abuse prosecution team in Morrow County," he continued. "The goal of this team is to make the court process less traumatic for the victims of child abuse."

"I have also had four years of experience in private law practice, from divorce and child custody cases to real estate transactions and business law. In 1977, I served as the first Umatilla County counsel. I am the current Morrow County Counsel, handling the county's civil litigation.

A captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of Oregon National Guard, I am a graduate of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) School in Charlottesville, Virginia. I have served as a military judge, prosecutor and defense counsel in military courts-martial proceedings.

"A lifelong Eastern Oregon resident who was raised on a family farm near Milton-Freewater, I was active in 4-H and FFA, and served as a state FFA officer following graduation from high school. My work in law enforcement, background in agriculture and wide range of legal experience as a prosecutor and in private practice have prepared me to be your next district court judge."



Garry Reynolds

Garry L. Reynolds, 44, Hermiston, has lived in Umatilla County for 16 years. He and his wife, Sheila have five children, 18, 17, 14, 11 and 10.

Reynolds has been an attorney since 1975 and has a private law practice in Reynolds & Bendixsen, P.C. He received his doctor of jurisprudence degree at Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College. Reynolds received a majority, 31 out of 62 votes in a recent attorneys poll concerning the judicial race.

Reynolds is a member of the board of trustees at Good Shepherd Community Hospital and a member of the library board for the city of Hermiston Library. He has been an adult boy scout leader for the past 10 years and has coached youth sports. Reynolds is a former municipal court judge pro tem for the city of The Dalles.

"The court system is entering a very difficult time with the implementation of Proposition 5," says Reynolds. "The Department of Parole and Probation is advising that they do not have the funds nor resources to formally supervise misdemeanor defendants. It is projected that jail space will be reduced. The court system will be faced with the challenge of having to handle a caseload that increases yearly with less funds."

"The challenge to accomplish more with less funding will require a judge of experience, intelligence and imagination," he added. "The system will require a judge who is experienced in the law and who can give prompt decisions so that litigants receive the justice they are seeking."

"As I have lived in Umatilla County and served the people of Umatilla and Morrow Counties, I have observed the needs of the judicial system and the needs of the community with respect to that system. The Court needs to be respected, and the people need to feel that they can and will obtain justice from the court."

"With my temperament and experience, I am best qualified to meet those needs. The judges and attorneys in Umatilla and Morrow Counties agree. In October 1991 and again in April of 1992 the Oregon State Bar asked the attorneys and judges who they thought should be the next district court judge. In both polls, these professionals, who know the needs of the Court and the qualifications of all the candidates, overwhelmingly chose me. In the latest poll, I received almost three times as many votes as the next closest candidate."



Wallace D. Terry

Wallace D. Terry, 47, Hermiston, has lived in Umatilla County for around 14 years. He

and his wife Linda, have four children 19, 18, 15 and eight.

Terry has been an attorney for 20 years. He is employed at the Umatilla/Morrow Public Defender Service Inc. He received his doctor of jurisprudence degree at the Willamette University College of Law.

Terry is involved in the United Way of Umatilla County and is a trustee at the First Baptist Church. Terry has been a business law instructor at Chemeketa Community College, Salem, and a constitutional law instructor at Blue Mountain Community College. He has both civil and criminal law experience.

"A major issue facing the court is the funding problems created by Measure 5," said Terry. "Many of the fiscal problems faced by the court systems of Umatilla and Morrow County can be alleviated by the greater use of the court at Hermiston for district and circuit, criminal and civil matters. The court could handle many matters in both district and circuit court involving persons from the Umatilla/Hermiston area which now are being heard in Pendleton, thus reducing the costly volume of cases there, and increasing convenience to the parties involved. Service to Morrow County could be extended to 1½ to two days a week with the district court sitting for one-half to one day in Irigoin, reducing expense to many agencies."

"Another major issue the court faces is lack of credibility," added Terry. "A way of rebuilding the public trust is for the judge to be more accessible to the public. This could be accomplished by a more 'open door' policy, which encourages citizens to come to the court and offer their input."

"Of all the candidates for this position, I have the greatest amount of experience. I have been involved in the practice of law since 1971 and have handled all types of cases in courts from municipal to the U.S. Court of Appeals."

"I also have a very good working relationship and the support of many of the persons and agencies involved in the judicial system. I strongly encourage voters to contact persons involved in the system and inquire of them who should be elected to the position of District Court Judge."



Steven Fogelson

Steven Fogelson, 35, Pendleton, has lived in Umatilla County 8½ years. He has two children, eight and five.

Fogelson has been an attorney for nine years. He was assistant district attorney for Umatilla County for 8½ years. Fogelson received both his bachelor of science and doctor of jurisprudence degrees from the University of Oregon.

Fogelson resigned as Umatilla County assistant district attorney after two circuit court judges barred him from their courtrooms for making what they considered disparaging remarks.

Fogelson has been a member of the Lion's Club since 1985 and has served as the club's tailtwister and first vice president. He received the Lion's club Cap Casperson-Outstanding new member award and has also been a Main Street Cowboy since 1991. He taught law at BMCC, taught Reserve Police Academy from 1984 to 1992 and has been an instructor for Saturday Academy. Fogelson is a

former police officer for the cities of Reno, Nevada and Oregon City. He has been a deputy medical examiner since 1984.

"During my 8½ years as the Umatilla County Assistant District Attorney, I was frustrated with a justice system which lacked genuine concern for public safety and victim's rights," commented Fogelson. "Repeat offenders would receive the same sentence whether it was their fourth or first conviction. Drug offenders traditionally receive the same sentence as first time drunk drivers, which rarely included jail time. Sentences would get lighter the more often offenders committed crimes."

"Our courts have not shown a willingness to try new approaches to dealing with repeat offenders," he added. "In other areas of the state, restitution centers, public notices of convictions, bigger community service obligations, and signs on offender's property

have been used to make offenders take responsibility and help the public protect themselves."

"Our courts have been willing to schedule trials and hearings at the convenience of defendants and defense attorneys. But when victims or witnesses need consideration because of prepaid vacations or inconvenience the courts have refused to listen."

"We pay police officers up to four hours of overtime to attend hearings on days off or when off duty. By opening a night court and working with the police in scheduling we can save thousands while making the courts more accessible to the public."

"There is a need to change the way our courts do business. We need to elect a judge who shows a concern for all persons, not just defendants and defendant's attorneys. It's time for new ideas and attitudes. It's time for a judge like Steve Fogelson."

District Court Judge Dept. 1

In the race for the District Court Judge Department 1, the winner will be selected in the May 19 primary election because only two candidates are vying for the position.

District Court Judges are elected on a non-partisan ballot for a term of six years. Incumbent Richard Courson's present term will expire in January of 1993. He is opposed by Pendleton city attorney Rudy Murgo.

The Dept. 1 district court judge serves both Umatilla and Morrow Counties but presides over cases primarily in Pendleton.



Richard Courson

Incumbent Richard J. Courson, 68, Pendleton, has lived in Umatilla County for the past 36 years. He and his wife Coralee, have three grown children.

Courson has been the district judge for the past 24 years. He received his doctor of jurisprudence degree at Northwestern College. He was elected Umatilla County District Attorney in 1958 and was re-elected in 1962 and 1966. He was appointed district court judge by Governor Tom McCall in 1967.

Courson received the most votes, 38 out of 64, in a recent attorney's poll.

Courson is a former instructor of criminal law-police science at Blue Mountain Community College, a current board member of the Pendleton Round-Up Hall of Fame, past director of the Pendleton Round-Up Association, past president of the Main Street Cowboys and past president of the state of Oregon High School Rodeo Association. He is also a member of the Oregon State Bar, past president of the Oregon State District Attorney Association, past member of the National District Attorney Association, a member of the 5th Marine Division Association and a member of the 'Association of Survivors'.

"A vital concern is the impact of Measure 5 and what it will mean to the administration of justice," said Courson.

"As presiding Judge, I have been intimately involved in planning the coming 6th Judicial budget. Of great concern is the

reduction of state funds to the local counties for Juvenile Services," he said.

Courson lists experience, patience, and even-judicial temperament, loyalty to the community and the results of the bar, poll as reasons to vote for him. "This is not the time for on the job training," said Courson, who added that he "always" takes the time to listen to both sides of the controversy."



Rudy Murgo

Rudy Murgo, 42, Pendleton, has lived in Eastern Oregon since 1976. He and his wife, Linda have three children.

Murgo has been a lawyer for 17 years and the Pendleton city attorney for the past 12 years. Prior to that he was the Umatilla County Assistant district attorney and before that, Marion County assistant DA. He received his law degree from the Willamette University College of Law in 1975.

Murgo was appointed this year by the Oregon Supreme Court as regional chairman for the Oregon State Bar Disciplinary Board, which investigates lawyer misconduct and ethical complaints. He has served on the Umatilla County Juvenile Services Commission and was appointed by the two governors to serve on a statewide juvenile commission.

He taught criminal justice classes at Blue Mountain Community College. He has appeared in state courts of all levels, municipal, district, circuit, the Land Use Board of Appeals, the Oregon Supreme Court, tribal court, military courts, boards and tribunals and federal courts. He is also a captain in the Oregon National Guard.

Murgo is involved in Boy Scouts, Rotary, the chamber of commerce and the Blue Mountain Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Murgo was instrumental in obtaining a ruling from the attorney general for the secretary of state to allow Morrow County residents to vote for both district court judges for Morrow and Umatilla counties.

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