



Sonya Fischer

For House District 38

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Dear Multnomah and Clackamas County Commissioners,

I am seeking appointment to HD 38 because I think I can help. **Of the candidates, I have the most legislative experience. I've been an intern, a legislative aide, a parent advocate, a lobbyist, and an agency staffer. I'm confident I can bring people together to get things done.**

As a young mother of a child with significant developmental disabilities, it was difficult to gain access to services and education. Because I had been an intern and a legislative aide and I knew how to pass legislation, I began advocating for families like mine. In the 1990's, Oregon was one of three states that did not have support services for families struggling to keep their children at home. It took nearly a decade, but we did succeed.

I also advocated to pass legislation ensuring that children with disabilities could remain in their home school district, and served as Early Childhood Program Development Specialist for Multnomah County. I worked with Senator Frank Shields to promote early childhood legislation that successfully integrated brain research into training for child care providers.

Opening my family law practice in 2005 has not slowed my advocacy efforts. I worked on behalf of Family and Community Together to pass anti-bullying legislation and, as Department of Human Services Legislative Director, I have a deep knowledge and understanding of the DHS budget which is one of the largest pieces of the General Fund. **I could be an asset to ensuring our limited dollars get to where they are most needed.**

As a small business owner in Lake Oswego, I know first-hand what it means to do business here. I've been a member of the Lake Oswego Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Governmental Affairs Committee. As a human services advocate, I know it's critical that we have a vibrant economy that provides family wage jobs. **We must do everything possible for job development and small business growth.** It is only with a strong economy that we are able to provide for strong schools, foster the public's safety, and sustain a strong safety net for our most vulnerable citizens.

I know that being a legislator with constituents in both Clackamas and Multnomah county won't always be easy. Sometimes, there will even seem to be competing interests. But as someone who has lived and worked in both counties, I can represent both well. As a negotiator who has advocated for children and families in the most difficult situations, **I know I have the skills to listen, learn, keep my cool, and work with coalitions of unlikely allies to find solutions that work for House District 38.**

Thank you for considering me as our State Representative for HD 38!

Education

J.D. Lewis and Clark Law School, 2002

- Member of the Cornelius Honor Society, 2003
- Recipient of Joyce Ann Harpole Memorial Scholarship, 2001
- ABA Negotiation Competition, Regional Team Member, 2000-2001
- Mock Trial Competition, 1st Place, Regional Team Member, 2001-2002

Master of Public Administration, Portland State University, 1993

- Outstanding Achievement Award

Bachelor of Science, Sociology/Social Work, Warner Pacific College, 1988

- Summa Cum Laude; Department of Social Science Superior Academic Performance
- Social Science Fellowship; Fine Arts Talent and Academic Merit Scholarship

Professional Experience

Attorney at Law, 2003 to present.

Law Office of Sonya Fischer, P.C. focuses on Family, Special Education, Guardianship Law and Government Relations, 2005 to present. Trainer for the Go! Project! teaching lobbying to families interested in advocating for people with disabilities, 2007. Associate for Johnson Renshaw Lechman-Su P.C. and Charlie Ringo and Associates, 2004- 2005. Contract Lawyer for Jan Baisch, Duffy Kekel, Maureen Leonard, Oregon Advocacy Center, Steven Brischetto, 2003-04.

Legislative Director, Department of Human Services, State of Oregon, **2010-2011.**

Developed and facilitated legislative agenda for the 2011 legislative session for the Department of Human Services.

Associate Lobbyist, The Tresidder Company, 2003.

Developed and implemented legislative strategy for various clients including Oregon Trial Lawyers Association; Oregon Advocacy Center; Jewish Federation of Portland; Defenders of Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy. Successfully achieved legislative objectives.

Legal Intern, Multnomah County District Attorney, 2002.

Managed the Violation of Restraining Order Docket which involved issuing cases, conducting court trials, negotiating plea agreements.

Legal Intern, Lewis and Clark Legal Clinic, 2001.

Provided legal services to clients on family law and employment matters under the supervision of an attorney. Interviewed clients and wrote memoranda and legal motions.

Legislative Coordinator, 2001 Session.

Monitored legislation affecting individuals with disabilities and their families, testified at public hearings, mobilized people to influence legislative process, and facilitated Advocacy Days Training.

Coordinator, Blueprint Project, 1999 to 2001.

Facilitated leadership development activities for families of children with disabilities and the professionals that worked with them.

Legislative Assistant, Senator Frank Shields, 1999 Legislative Session.

Developed human service policy. Developed and implemented legislative agenda.

Program Development Specialist, Multnomah County, 1996-1999.

Managed contracts for Domestic Violence, Early Childhood and Homeless Youth Service Providers. Facilitated planning for procurement process and service implementation.

Campaign Manager and Legislative Assistant for State Representative Sharon Wylie, 1992-1994.

Case Manager and Program Development Specialist, Multnomah County, 1988-1991.

Volunteer/ Community Service

- **Member of Board of Directors, Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, 2010 to present.**
- **Member of Governmental Affairs Committee for Lake Oswego Chamber of Commerce, 2008 to present.**
- **Immediate Past President, Clackamas Women Lawyers, on Board 2011 to present.**
- **Member of the Board of Directors, Disability Rights Oregon, 2010 to present**
- **Secretary, Clackamas County Bar Association, 2007-2008.**
- **Co-Chair, Oregon Trial Lawyers Association Family Law Section, 2007-present.**
- **Member of Lake Oswego School District Configuration Committee, 2007.**
- **Member of the Lake Oswego School District Budget Committee, 2005-2008.**
- **Chair, Policy Committee for the Family Action Coalition Team, 2007- 2010.**
- **Volunteer for Hallinan Elementary School, Waluga Junior High and Lakeridge High School, 2002-present.**
- **Member of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association, 2003-present.**
- **Member of the ARC, formerly Association of Retarded Citizens, 1988- present.**
- **Member of the National Foundation for Angelman’s Syndrome, 1989-present.**
- **Volunteer for Centennial School District in the classroom, on field trips and for class parties, 1994-2002.**
- **Presenter for the Oregon Women’s Political Caucus Campaign School, 2000.**
- **Member of the Centennial School District Budget Committee, 1998 to 1999.**
- **Member of the Centennial Education Foundation Board of Directors, 1994-1999.**
- **Member and Co-Chair of the Oregon Family Support Council, 1993-1999.**
- **Member of the Board of Directors Specialized Housing Inc., 1994.**
- **Conference Presenter for the National Angelman’s Syndrome Conference, Orlando, FL; 1993.**
- **Conference Presenter for the Oregon Association of Young Children, 1993.**
- **Member of the Strategic Planning Committee for Centennial School District, 1991-1994.**
- **Intern for State Senator Frank Roberts, 1991 Session.**
- **Participant on the Early Intervention Council of Multnomah County, 1986-1988.**
- **Founder of Multnomah County Early Intervention Parent Support and Advocacy Group, 1987-1989.**

Hobbies/Interests

Dancing ballet, practicing yoga, hiking in the woods, singing karaoke, discussing politics