



# Electronic Resources for Oregon Attorneys\*

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**O**regon attorneys have a wide range of legal resources at their fingertips. This article provides a description of some of those resources and where to find them. The following websites contain links to many more materials, so take time to explore!

## 1. Oregon Judicial Department

The Oregon Judicial Department website ([courts.oregon.gov](http://courts.oregon.gov)) is the hub



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for Oregon legal materials and resources. It provides links to circuit courts, the Oregon Law Library, the Oregon State Bar, the Oregon Revised Statutes, court forms, court opinions (Supreme Court and Court of Appeals), court rules, and e-court information. There is also a link to the “Juror Handbook”—a good read for any attorney headed into trial who would like a refresher course on the jury’s knowledge of courtroom procedure.

## 2. Oregon BarBooks

This is a *fantastic*, free, online library of legal publications available on the Oregon State Bar website under the “For Lawyers” heading. Registration is free and just requires a bar number.<sup>1</sup> The collection includes searchable publications including Oregon Civil Pleading and Practice, Oregon Civil Litigation Manual, Damages, Torts, Contract Law in Oregon, legislation highlights, and Uniform Civil

Jury Instructions. Each of these publications is periodically updated and can be downloaded in PDF format for access offline. Many publications include links to forms in PDF and Word format including a motion to dismiss, notice of deposition, and motion to substitute defendant’s personal representative. Frequent online training is available at no charge and information on training sessions is listed on the BarBooks webpage. This resource is a true gem.

## 3. Materials Available on the Multnomah County Circuit Court Website

The Multnomah County Circuit Court provides a wealth of information on its website. Most materials can be found by clicking the “General Information” tab, and then the “Civil” tab. The following is a discussion of some of these materials, but it is worth taking time to explore the court’s website for additional materials pertinent to your practice.

### A. Multnomah County Attorney Reference Manual (2008)

This wonderful publication contains tips for litigation in Multnomah County and serves as a good primer for new attorneys. The reference manual addresses topics such as court organization, filing procedure, case management, civil motions, venue, trial calendaring, and judgment and post-judgment procedures. A copy should be on every Oregon attorney’s desk. Since the manual was released in 2008, some content is outdated, so the manual should be reviewed together with recent court rules and the

court’s civil case management handouts. Please note this manual should not be cited as authority: it is simply a reference tool for attorneys practicing in Multnomah County.

### B. Civil Motion Panel Statement of Consensus

The *Civil Motion Panel Statement of Consensus* was published by judges in Multnomah County<sup>2</sup> to address a variety of topics such as medical exams, depositions, occurrence witnesses, expert witnesses, discovery of tax returns, fact witnesses, motion practice, and pleading punitive damages. Though it cannot be cited as authority, the consensus statement can be referenced to inform a judge of rulings in similar instances.

### C. Recommended Practices for Civil Jury Trials in Multnomah County Circuit Court (2008)

Presiding court published this resource in 2008 to “identify practices for civil jury trials likely to increase juror comprehension and satisfaction and improve trial efficiencies.” It includes recommended practices for preparing and conducting a civil jury trial such as trial scheduling, exhibits, the neutral statement of the case, deposition testimony and objections, pre-trial conferences, jury selection, and general trial practices.

### D. Judge Websites

Each circuit court judge has a webpage with the judge’s contact information and preferences regarding submission of information via e-mail and fax. Some judges provide additional information under the “documents and

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resources” link of their webpage such as preferred courtroom procedures. Your judge will likely be very pleased if you take the time to understand his or her courtroom procedures and preferences at the start of your case.

### *E. Court Rules and Fees*

The Multnomah County Circuit Court website includes links to the Supplemental Local Rules and Uniform Trial Court Rules in searchable PDF format. The site also has a “Court Rules Archives” with copies of SLRs dating back to February 2008 and UTCRs dating back to August 2007. Detailed, current fee schedules for the circuit court, appellate court, and tax court are also provided. Most Oregon circuit courts include a link to their local rules as well.

### **4. Oregon Council on Court Procedures**

The Oregon Council on Court Procedures “is the Oregon public body that is most directly involved in creating, reviewing, and amending the Oregon Rules of Civil Procedure.” It maintains a website (found at [www.counciloncourtprocedures.org](http://www.counciloncourtprocedures.org)) with links to the current Oregon Rules on Civil Procedure and amendments, as well as agendas, minutes, rule drafts, and documents for the current biennium and past bienniums dating back to 1977 (though more substantive information begins in 1993). There is also a page dedicated to the legislative history of “each rule that the Council has amended since its inception (1979)” through 2011, with updates coming soon.

### **5. Oregon Secretary of State**

The Oregon Secretary of State website includes links to legislative bill tracings with “committee names, page numbers from minutes, tape numbers and other helpful research information



related to selected bills from 1981 to the present.” It also maintains legislative committee minutes and audio logs from 1991 to the present.

### **6. Oregon Law Commission**

The Oregon Law Commission maintains a webpage within the Willamette University College of Law website. The site includes reports addressing various legal topics such as statutory time limitations on product liability actions, conflicts of laws, and inheritance tax.

### **7. Professional Liability Fund**

The PLF maintains various “Practice Aids and Forms” on its website, [www.osbplf.org](http://www.osbplf.org), under the “Loss Prevention” section. The practice aids are organized by categories such as litigation, docketing and calendaring, engagement letters, client communication, retiring from

law practice, and conflicts of interest. Litigation practice aids include a sample pleading index, civil litigation checklist with tasks to complete during the life of a case, overview of statutes of limitations, issues for consideration in a personal injury case, and “tips from the bench” on topics like trial notebooks, opening statements, use of depositions at trial, and jury instructions.

These invaluable resources are just a click away. Enjoy!

### **Endnotes**

1. BarBooks is separate from Fastcase, a free online legal research tool available to Bar Members. It can be accessed from the OSB website in the same way.
2. Some other counties, such as Clackamas, have similar statements of consensus.

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