



Former Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz bio:

Born in June 8, 1947,<sup>[3][4]</sup> in [Glendale, California](#), De Muniz's family lived there until Paul turned six when the family relocated to [Portland, Oregon](#).<sup>[5]</sup> In Portland, he attended Harvey Scott Elementary in the [Roseway Neighborhood](#) and graduated from [Madison High School](#) in Northeast Portland.<sup>[5]</sup> After graduating from high school in 1965<sup>[6]</sup> De Muniz served time in the [Air Force](#), including time in [Vietnam](#) during the [war](#).<sup>[2]</sup> De Muniz enrolled at [Portland State University](#), graduating with a Bachelor of Science in 1972.<sup>[8]</sup> He completed his education in 1975 after graduating from [Willamette University College of Law](#) in [Salem](#) with a [JD](#).<sup>[7]</sup> At Willamette he was an associate editor of the school's [law review](#) publication.<sup>[7]</sup>

After law school, De Muniz began a public legal career as a state deputy [public defender](#) and later as a special prosecutor for [Douglas County, Oregon](#).<sup>[2]</sup> He also was in private practice in Salem at the firm of Garrett, Seideman, Hemann, Robertson & De Muniz.<sup>[2]</sup> While in private practice, De Muniz was the primary attorney responsible for working to overturn the conviction of [Santiago Ventura Morales](#)' murder conviction.<sup>[2]</sup> Morales, a migrant farm worker from [Mexico](#), was convicted in 1986 of killing a fellow farm worker. He was only given a Spanish interpreter to assist in the language barrier, however his primary language was [Mixtec](#). On appeal it was shown that Morales was not the killer and he was released in a national watched incident. After release Morales was given a [scholarship](#) to the [University of Portland](#) and graduated with a degree in social work.<sup>[9]</sup>

In 1990, De Muniz was appointed to [Oregon Court of Appeals](#) by Oregon's governor, and then won election to a full six-year term on the court in November of that year. He served on the Court of Appeals from 1990 to 2000, when in 2000 he was elected to the Oregon Supreme Court to fill an open seat on the court vacated when [George Van Hoomissen](#) retired.<sup>[10]</sup> De Muniz' term began in 2001 when he became the state's first Latino Supreme Court justice, and in 2006 he was elected Chief Justice.<sup>[10][11]</sup> Upon joining the court, he became the first Latino member in the court's history.<sup>[11]</sup> In November 2005, he was unanimously elected by his fellow court members to a six-year term as chief justice to replace [Wallace P. Carson, Jr.](#), who vacated the top position on the court.<sup>[11]</sup> De Muniz announced in October 2011 that he would not run for re-election in 2012 and would leave at the end of his term in January 2013.<sup>[12]</sup>