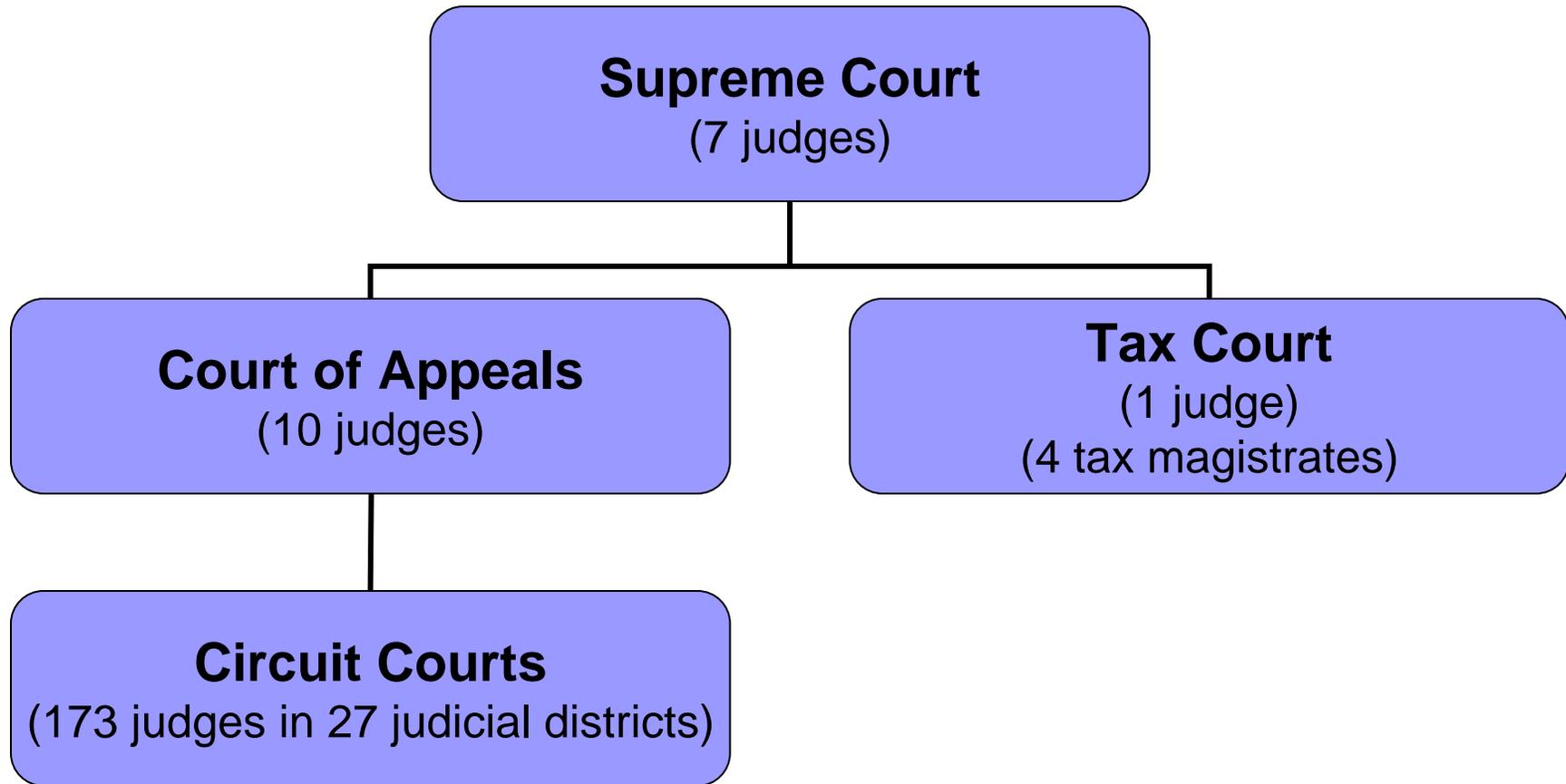
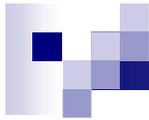


# Judicial Branch

- Producing timely and high-quality work
- Responsibly managing the public funds entrusted to us
- Ensuring that all our citizens have access to justice

*The Oregon judiciary is strong.*





■ **610,000 cases**



■ **24,000 trials**

# Oregon Tax Court

- One of only three in U.S.
- Average of seven months to decision
- Tax appeal process transparent and user-friendly
- Website and public outreach program



Tax Court Judge  
Henry Breithaupt



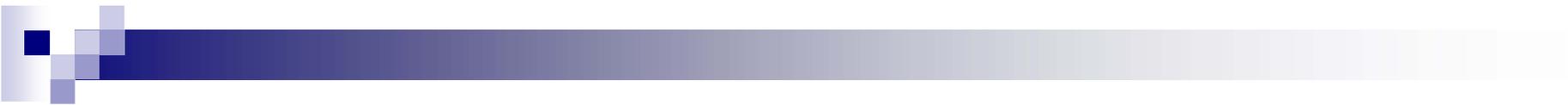
# Oregon Court of Appeals

- One of 39 states in the U.S.
- Average of 4,000 filings per year
- Approximately 400 cases per judge
- 2006: 420 written opinions

# Oregon Supreme Court

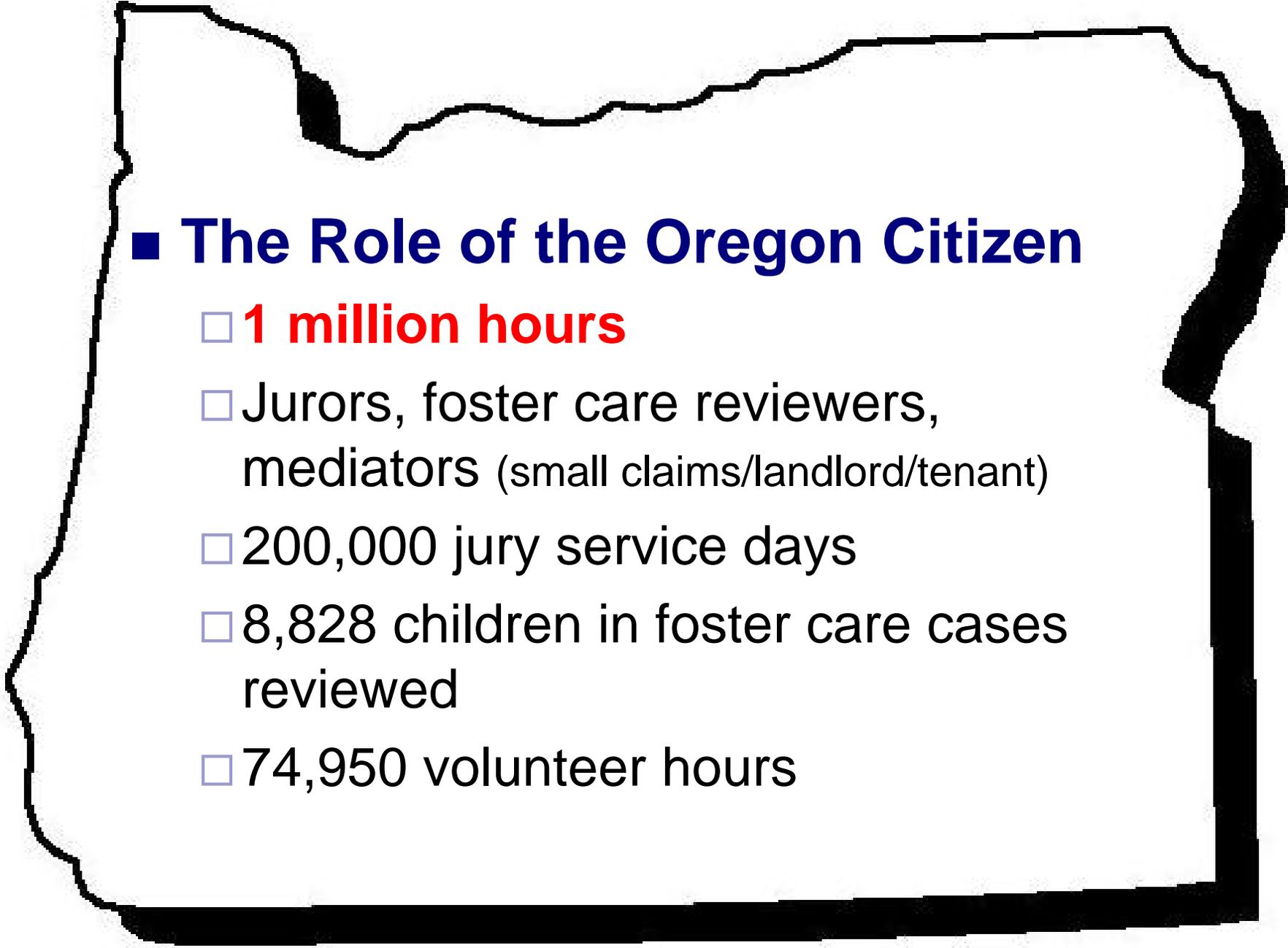


- Discretionary review of decisions of the Court of Appeals
- **2006:** 1,200+ petitions; 109 written opinions; 40% decided w/in three months
- Hears oral arguments across the state
- First time in court's 147 year history two women, Justice Martha Walters and Justice Virginia Linder are serving simultaneously



# Working Together

- **Legislative and Executive branches support the courts efforts to**
  - protect children and strengthen families
  - to enhance public safety
  - enforce economic and property rights
- **People of Oregon give of themselves**
  - jurors, mediators, volunteers, and others
- **Members of the Oregon Judicial Department**
  - show tireless efforts, dedication and their ability to turn limited resources into creative solutions



## ■ The Role of the Oregon Citizen

- **1 million hours**
- Jurors, foster care reviewers, mediators (small claims/landlord/tenant)
- 200,000 jury service days
- 8,828 children in foster care cases reviewed
- 74,950 volunteer hours



# Interdisciplinary Solutions

- 46 treatment-oriented circuit courts in Oregon
- These courts use a collaborative, community-based problem solving model to improve lives, reduce crime, and promote healthy communities.



# Oregon's Business Community

- Oregon's courts remain committed to the needs of the private sector
- Courts provide the forum of choice to resolve issues
- Our courts are transparent, permit community involvement, and establish precedents



# '07 – '09 Judicial Budget Priority

## Judicial Compensation

- Judicial compensation needs to commensurate with the important role that judges perform everyday
- Judges at all three levels are faced with these facts:
  - have not received a compensation increase since 2002
  - rank at or near the bottom nationally
  - earn less than innumerable state employees, many public lawyers, and young associates in Portland firms

# Oregon Courthouses



# Courthouses in Crisis

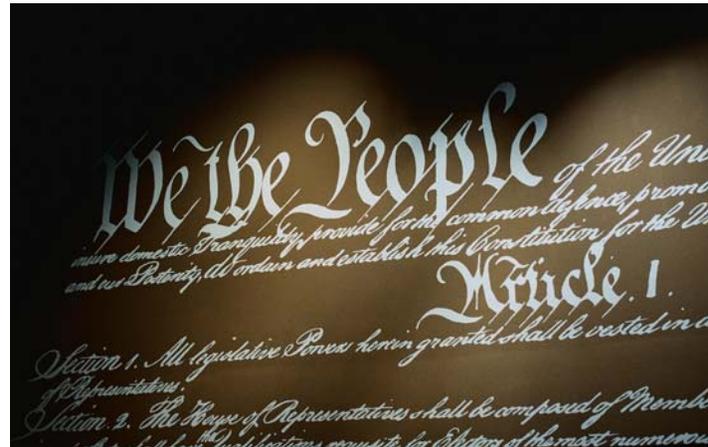




# Challenges to the Independence of the Judiciary

- Dramatic increase in attacks by politicians and others
- Massive influx of special-interest money in judicial election campaigns
- Loosening of ethical constraints on what judicial candidates may or may not say about cases

# ***To preserve the impartiality of the Oregon courts***



we must educate our citizen's about the  
role of the courts in our constitutional  
democracy.

***To sustain the delicate balance of power in Oregon's government, we must maintain the public's confidence in the competency, efficiency, and impartiality of the courts.***

