
Joseph O'Leary

Deputy Director, Oregon Youth Authority

Joseph "Joe" O'Leary has served as deputy director of the Oregon Youth Authority since June 2012. His career has been dedicated to public service, from working as a public defender in Oregon's busiest juvenile court to advising two of the state's Governors on public safety and legal issues.

Mr. O'Leary served as general counsel and senior policy advisor in the Governor's Office (2006-11), counsel to the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee (2005-06) and director of Policy, Planning and Legislative Analysis at the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (2011-12).

Prior to his state government service, Mr. O'Leary was a trial attorney in Portland. He began his legal career as a public defender representing clients in juvenile delinquency and dependency matters. Afterward, he spent several years in private practice representing members of law enforcement, corporate officers, lawyers, and employees. Prior to attending law school, he worked in a Latino farmworker community as a volunteer housing program coordinator through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest.

Mr. O'Leary received his undergraduate degree from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and his juris doctorate from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland. He has been a member of the Oregon State Bar since 1997 and is admitted to practice in state and federal courts.



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