

Judge Adrienne Nelson is a U.S. District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. Prior to her appointment to the federal bench, Judge Nelson sat the Oregon Supreme Court from 2018 to 2023. From 2006 to 2018, she served as a circuit court judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court in Portland. Prior to taking the bench, she worked as a coordinator and senior attorney for Portland State University from 2004 to 2006, was an adjunct professor at Lewis & Clark Law School from 2002 to 2005, was an associate attorney, from 1999 to 2004, with Bennett, Hartman, Morris & Kaplan, LLP, and from 1996 to 1999, was a public defender with Multnomah Defenders, Inc.

Judge Nelson served as Chair of the ABA Cornerstones of Democracy Commission from 2022-2025. Judge Nelson has also won numerous awards, including the Spirit of Excellence Award Honoree, American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession in 2022; the Equity Achievement Award, presented by the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in 2021; and Woman of Achievement Award, Oregon Commission on Women, in 2020. The Adrienne C. Nelson High School opened in the North Clackamas School District in Oregon in 2021.