

Background | Jason Renaud

Jason Renaud is a well-known public speaker and writer on recovery from alcoholism and the experience of people with mental illness, and is an active advocate for people who have fallen through the public safety net. Renaud has over 40 years of open sobriety.

He is the board secretary of the [Mental Health Association of Portland](#) and coordinates four enduring projects for the organization; the [Law & Mental Health Conference](#), the [Mental Health Alliance](#) which advises courts and government agencies in relation to mental illness and addiction; the [Oregon Housing Conference](#), the [Alternative Mobile Service Association](#), which connects city and county leaders creating alternatives to police. He provides training on [extreme risk protection orders](#), and is available by contract as a trial consultant.



Renaud spent fifteen years as an executive team member of the national nonprofit healthcare advocate Compassion & Choices, working on multi-million dollar fundraising campaigns, successful state ballot measures, legislative, public relations and legal battles, and development of both the medical and pharmaceutical practice of aid in dying. As executive director of their Oregon affiliate, he coordinated in-home patient care for Oregon's aid in dying services and was at the bedside for over twenty deaths.

Renaud has held several managerial positions, including executive positions for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Washington St. Department of Corrections, *The Oregonian* newspaper, Central City Concern, where he managed its alcohol and drug free housing, and Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare, where he was both communications director and an ACT Team co-coordinator – not at the same time.

In 2014 he produced the award-winning documentary film [Alien Boy: The Life and Death of James Chasse](#). He has been an amicus curiae to [US DOJ v City of Portland](#) since 2014. In 2022 he co-authored "[From Asylum to Community – Mental Health Care in Oregon from the 1950s to 2000](#)" for the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*.

Recently Renaud served on the Oregon Addiction and Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council, the Oregon Task Force on Alcohol Pricing and Addiction Services, the Lone Fir Cemetery Foundation Board, Multnomah County's Transforming Justice Steering Committee, Portland's Police Accountability Commission, Providence Health's Psychiatric Hospital Design Team, the Advancing the Field of Alternative Response Committee at New York University Law, and the TRANSFORM911 Project at the University of Chicago Health Lab.

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