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# LAWYERS SERVE!



Idaho attorneys play a special role in their communities, impacting the lives of those around them in numerous ways. You will find them at the beating heart of our diverse neighborhoods, serving on non-profit boards, coaching little league and serving in elected offices. Quantifying exactly how much time and money attorneys give is difficult - but as we look around, we find countless individuals and organizations brimming with generosity.

At the Idaho State Bar, we have unearthed a sample of how everyday attorneys made a difference in 2015. Idaho attorneys gave us a more personable look at their contributions through an online survey, disseminated in Spring 2016. Our statistical findings are highlighted throughout this publication, along with the stories and photos of several individuals who shared their experiences with us.

The Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, which matches volunteer attorneys with low-income individuals in need of legal services, reports that Idaho attorneys gave over 15,000 hours of volunteer service in 2015 alone. Idaho Legal Aid Services, a separate entity of a similar vision, reports 1,204 hours of pro bono legal services in the same time frame. Together, these two organizations and their dedicated volunteers have helped resolve problems ranging from custody agreements to veterans benefits.

The compassion, generosity and patience demonstrated by members of the legal profession is rarely recognized. It is easy to overlook just how rooted in the community lawyers truly are. We are excited to share these stories of inspiration, dedication and commitment, in hopes that you will catch a small glimpse of the ways in which

## Lawyers Serve!

Survey results cannot even begin to capture the entirety of attorney contributions to charitable organizations, community groups or the public. Nevertheless, our Spring 2016 survey indicated the following:

*In 2015...*

**54%** financially supported 2-5 community organizations/groups

**39%** financially supported organizations/groups whose focus was social service

**57%** indicated their role as a community group board member

**3%** financially contributed \$25,000 or more to charitable organizations

**62%** financially contributed \$1,000 - \$24,999 to charitable organizations

## Idaho National Guard Captain Steve Stokes: Assisting Veterans Across Idaho

Captain Stephen A. Stokes, a family law mediator and attorney advisor to the adjutant general, spent a year in Baghdad practicing military law - responsible for contracts, fiscal law, administrative law and general legal assistance. When interviewed by the Idaho Business Review, Stokes, a Pocatello native, shared "I can't stop working. I get restless, I think, and I have to fill my time."

Stokes serves on the Idaho Pro Bono Commission and is a leading voice for Idaho's military population. Over 130,000 veterans reside in the state of Idaho - an additional 10,000 active duty or National Guard members reside in the state as well. With the assistance of others,

Captain Stokes helped found the Idaho Military Legal Alliance (IMLA), a group dedicated to providing pro bono or reduced-fee legal services to those who protect the freedom we all cherish.

Since 2013, IMLA has been working with community partners to establish free, monthly clinics around the state. Regular clinics currently take place in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Caldwell, Boise and Pocatello. The group has plans to add clinics in Mountain Home and Twin Falls before the end of the year.



Capt. Stokes providing legal guidance at a recent IMLA clinic

To get involved with the Idaho Military Legal Alliance (IMLA), visit the IMLA Facebook page or contact Capt. Stokes at 208-272-3573.



## Boise Attorney Inspired by Projects from Idaho to Nepal



Jeffrey Thomson of Elam & Burke volunteers with several nonprofit groups; namely the Sunrise Rotary Club, Girl Scouts Silver Sage Council and the Stage Coach Theatre. Committing between 11-15 hours each month, Thomson has served these organizations and others over the years with both time and funding - he has served in various leadership capacities and has contributed financially when asked.

One particular organization Thomson is fond of is the Himalaya Rescue Association. This group's objective is to prevent deaths from Acute Sickness and other accidents or illnesses that can be encountered when trekking through the mountains of Nepal. Thanks to dedicated individuals like Thomson, the organization provided badly needed medical care resulting from the April 2015 earthquake that registered with a magnitude of 7.8.

Thomson's involvement in the Bar is just as extensive. He is a Past President of the Idaho Association of Defense Counsel, an appointed member of the Idaho State Bar Professional Conduct Board and a member of the Idaho State Bar Litigation and Appellate Practice Sections.

## Work/Life Balance through Service in Latin America



Robison with his students in Peru

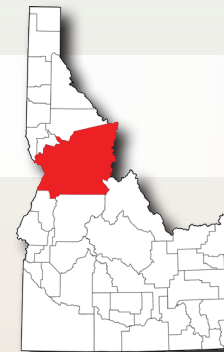
Pocatello lawyer Jesse Robison has developed a love for Latin culture. After enduring 20 years of the challenges accompanying a litigation practice, Robison's vision of global public service led him to a small scale education agency in Trujillo, Peru. There, two brothers work to support visitors who tutor local children in English and other subjects.

In the winter of 2015, Robison packed his bags and left Southeast Idaho for a two-month volunteer assignment. The primitive accommodations of Peru included no air conditioning, spotty water and unreliable electricity. This, however, did not affect Robison's spirits.

He relayed upon his return that "despite living in abject poverty, these children were so happy. They took their education very seriously."

Robison has plans to return next winter and when interviewed he reminisced about his trip: "I was struggling with some personal difficulties," speaking of his life before heading to Peru. "But this righted my ship and reminded me of who I am. It makes me feel healthy. They taught me more than I taught them."

## Grangeville Attorney Finds Delight in Giving



Jane Spencer is a consummate volunteer, clocking somewhere between 6-10 hours each month aiding the arts, healthcare and spiritual needs of her community. The Idaho County District Court staff attorney adopted Grangeville over 20 years ago. In the Idaho County community of 3,123 residents, Spencer says it's her neighbors that are truly her passion.

She has served or is serving on the Grangeville Community Foundation, Grangeville Arts, Syringa Hospital Foundation, Idaho County Historic Preservation Commission and within her church. Spencer's specific enjoyment is "helping to organize a summer concert series which brings community members to the park one night a week for a month to enjoy each other's company as well as listen to music."

## Young and Newly Admitted Attorneys Fight Hunger

For over three decades, Idaho's young and newly admitted attorneys have rallied together to raise funds and awareness to fight hunger in Idaho. Throughout the years, over \$100,000 has been raised, including over \$20,000 since 2010 for the Idaho Food Bank through the *Attorneys Against Hunger* campaign.

This official service project of the Young Lawyers Section has continuously played a vital role in supporting food assistance to the 250,000+ Idahoans that are food insecure. 100% of all campaign proceeds have gone directly to support Idahoans in all 44 counties.



Past Young Lawyers Section Chair Phil McGrane prepares BBQ for the 2014 Attorneys Against Hunger fundraiser

Idaho attorneys know the importance of community involvement as they continually **give back!**

**74%** spent on average 1-15 hours per month volunteering

**91%** volunteered for at least 1 group or cause

**22%** spent on average over 15 hours per month volunteering

**17%** volunteered for 5 or more groups or causes





Pacillo, Boise



Quade, Coeur d'Alene

## Pacillo, Nafzger and Quade: Their 'Attorneys for Civic Education' Legacy

Graduates of the Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers Class of 2013, Edith Pacillo, Office of the Attorney General, Jodi Nafzger, Concordia University School of Law, and Danielle Quade, Hawley Troxell, developed a legacy project to address the critical importance of civics education in Idaho schools. At a time where youth can quickly name the judges of American Idol yet struggle with naming just one U.S. Supreme Court Justice, the three Idaho attorneys set out to form *Attorneys for Civic Education* (ACE).

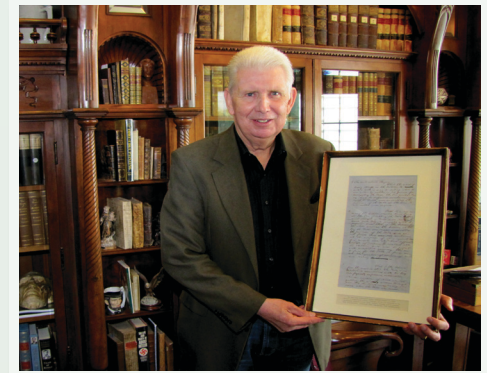


Nafzger, Boise

In less than three years, ACE has connected members of the legal community with opportunities to increase civic education throughout the state. The program has grown to include additional attorneys from various backgrounds and practice areas. It has also become the official community service project of the Idaho State Bar Government & Public Sector Lawyers Section, chaired by Elizabeth Koeckeritz, Boise City Attorney's Office. A brief overview of the specific programs ACE actively supports with both time and funding include: *We the People*, *Idaho Law Foundation Mock Trial Program* and the *Treasure Valley YMCA Youth in Government Program*.

## Former Idaho Lt. Governor and Attorney General Rekindles Lincoln's Light

David Leroy of Boise generously gifts his time and treasures to help sustain the arts, cultural programs, educational opportunities, and political and professional organizations. If you know Leroy, then you know his passion is President Abraham Lincoln. Leroy is a nationally recognized Lincoln scholar and has dedicated his adult life to preserving the history of our 16th President.



Leroy with one of his many prized artifacts

Original documents, photographs, drawings, journals, silverware, books and paintings once owned by Lincoln or the Lincoln family make up a rare collection which fill's Leroy's home and office. Leroy describes his love for Lincoln as a "hobby." Donating on average 5-10 hours of service each month, Leroy has served as a mentor, teacher and presenter to history enthusiasts. He and his wife, Nancy, have donated numerous artifacts worth "several hundred thousand dollars" to the Idaho State Historical Society.

Leroy sums up his passion of Lincoln by sharing, "the traits that made him a good lawyer on the trial circuit in the 1830s to the 1850s are the same skills that enabled him to assess people and become an effective communicator as president at a critical time." He continues, "these are the traits that make good lawyers today."



## ATTORNEYS FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

For more information on volunteering with ACE, email [attorneysforcived@gmail.com](mailto:attorneysforcived@gmail.com).



## A Tiny Ripple with a Lasting Impact

The Boise-based firm, Gjording Fouser PLLC, proudly supports a variety of community groups each and every year. Their state, regional and national acclaim serves as the perfect platform for a lasting impact.

From helping fund the search for curing childhood cancer with St. Luke's Children's Hospital, to providing ways for young musicians to practice their talents through the Boise Public Schools Foundation, even sponsoring and organizing the Access to Justice Idaho FUND Run/Walk, the Gjording Fouser team exemplifies the Scott Adams saying, "Remember there's no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end."

## Dedicated to the Courtroom and the Community

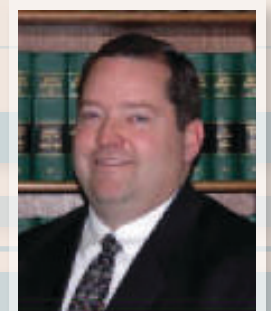
Idaho trial lawyers are taking a break from the courtroom and displaying civic commitment to their communities through service with the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA). In September 2015, members of ITLA worked with United Way of Kootenai County to deliver cords of split fire wood to low income seniors. With four pickups crossing state highways and county roads, over 25 loads of firewood were collected and hauled to seniors in Athol, Bayview, Spirit Lake, Hayden, Rathdrum and Coeur d'Alene. Sheli Fulcher Koontz, ITLA President, relayed "We worked hard all day and had a great time sporting our TEAM ITLA t-shirts. The recipients of our efforts were both grateful and very interested in ITLA as a result - mission accomplished."



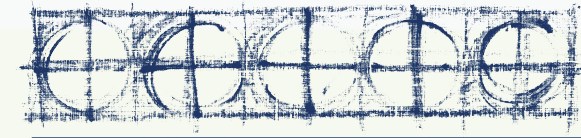
In addition to ITLA's involvement with United Way in 2015, they have partnered with the Treasure Valley YMCA's Safe Routes to School program, which provides bike helmets for children. By raising funds, ITLA plays a critical role in the distribution of approximately 600 bike helmets every year to any child in need. Koontz's ultimate goal is to partner with the Idaho Association of Defense Counsel and work together for a common goal that benefits the community.

## Inspiring Young People to Tackle Practical Engineering Problems

Idaho bankruptcy attorney Aaron Tolson calls the small town of Ammon home and is committed to engineering, math and science. His commitment and passion led him to organize a program for young people to engage in learning math and science while tackling practical engineering problems. The program was free for students to attend and attracted 611 young Idahoans. However, his work did not stop there. Tolson is engaged with a handful of other organizations, including the American Red Cross, Upper Valley Grid Kid, Boy Scouts of America, EITECH and the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-day Saints.



A member of the Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section, Tolson donates over 15 hours per month to these volunteer organizations where he serves in various roles including board member, coach, fundraiser, mentor and pro bono attorney.



Helping the profession serve the public

The Idaho Law Foundation's Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program (IVLP) is always looking for volunteer attorneys to help provide a safety net for low-income families in Idaho who require civil legal services pro bono. For more information, contact IVLP Program Director Anna Almerico at [aalmerico@isb.idaho.gov](mailto:aalmerico@isb.idaho.gov).

Whether it's a one-day project or a life-long commitment, Idaho attorneys are making big differences in their communities. We hope you are inspired and encouraged.

Don't forget that **your work matters** and **every moment counts!**



### Coeur d'Alene Stands Strong Against Alzheimer's

Katherine Coyle's most meaningful community activity was the North Idaho Walk to End Alzheimer's, a walk she organized and sponsored. To Katherine, giving her time and expertise to this cause is of both professional and personal importance.

You can find Katherine volunteering 1-5 hours each month to causes such as The Alzheimer's Association of North Idaho, the local Care Net chapter, Ironman Coeur d'Alene and at several local senior centers.

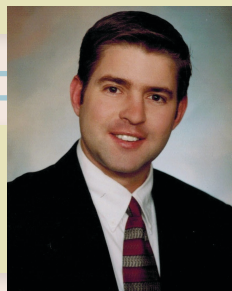
An attorney with Wytychak Elder Law, PLLC, Katherine's involvement is making a difference in the lives of North Idaho's elderly population.



### Meridian Attorney Carries Extensive Charitable Portfolio

Tayler Tibbits has been an Idaho lawyer for a little over two years. However, his portfolio of public service matches those of many seasoned practitioners. An attorney for NexTitle, Tibbits is active in Boise Young Professionals and involves himself in the service projects organized and executed by this group. He also finds time to volunteer 11-15 hours each month in different roles - from fundraising to legal work, special event coordination and board leadership.

Tibbits dedicates his time to Family Advocates, OneStone, Attorneys for Civic Education, United Way of Treasure Valley and First Tee of Idaho. Within the legal community, you can find him providing his time and expertise to the Idaho State Bar, as he is a Past Chairperson of the International Law Section and member of both the Real Property Law Section and the Young Lawyers Section.



### Making Gem County a Better Place to Live

In the rural communities of Gem County you will be pressed to find a committed volunteer more engaged in local service than Tim Fleming of Fleming Law Offices. A resident of Emmett, almost every organization he belongs to is based in the town of 6,500 residents located in Southwest Idaho. The Emmett Rotary Club, the Emmett Valley Friendship Coalition, the Emmett Community Playhouse, the USBC Emmett Bowling Association and the Gem County Republican Party are all passions of Fleming's.

Spending over 15 hours per month supporting the arts, education, political organizations and sports, Fleming also showcases his legal prowess through pro bono opportunities and the Third District Youth Court.

Build **V**isibility  
Create **O**ppportunity  
Showcase **L**eadership  
Are **U**nique  
Supply **N**ew Ideas  
Carry on the **T**raditions  
Exude **E**nergy  
Radiate **E**nthusiasm  
Locate **R**esources  
Just **S**erve!



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“A single act of kindness throws  
out roots in all directions,  
*and the roots spring up*  
and make new trees.”

- Amelia Earhart