



Nov. 9, 2015

Local Lawyers Recognized for Pro Bono work

BOISE – Last year 750 Idaho attorneys reported volunteering 14,000 hours of free legal work for 2,100 low-income persons. A handful of those attorneys have been singled out by the Idaho State Bar for the Denise O’Donnell Day Pro Bono Award. Award winners were selected for their extraordinary time and effort to resolve legal issues for low-income clients.

Scott L. Rose, Boise, volunteered 230 hours on three separate cases for one pro bono client who was incarcerated. Mr. Rose was able to resolve her child support matter and her custody case. He remains attorney of record on a guardianship.

Theodore Steven “Ted” Tollefson, Boise, agreed to help a mother in a high-conflict custody case. The father had been abusive and wanted sole custody and was represented by tenacious counsel. Mr. Tollefson spent more than 150 hours defending a protection order and appeared in court numerous times. Ultimately Mr. Tollefson managed to negotiate a settlement agreement that protected the best interests of the child. Both mother and daughter were “ecstatic.”

Kersti Harter Kennedy, Boise, agreed to represent a mother in a custody case involving a difficult and complicated family history. Through Ms. Kennedy’s efforts, which included the donation of 45 hours of service in litigation and negotiations, the mother was able to obtain a custody order that achieved her objectives for protection of the children.

Joe R. Larson, Boise, agreed to assist a Boise man with an eviction that followed a bank foreclosure. The client suffered from mental and physical disabilities and could not remember what communications he had with the bank. The client needed time to figure out where he could move. Mr. Larson was able to negotiate with the bank’s counsel to give him the time. Another attorney, Sunrise Ayers of Idaho Legal Aid Services, acted as Mr. Larson’s mentor since post-foreclosure evictions were not a part of his prior experience.

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For more information, contact the attorney directly, or Idaho State Bar Communications Director Dan Black at dblack@isb.idaho.gov or (208) 955-8866.

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