



# IDAHO LAW FOUNDATION

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VOLUME V, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2019

### DAVID MAGUIRE'S PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: SPRING HAS (THANK GOODNESS!) SPRUNG



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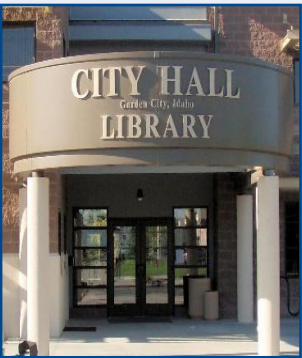
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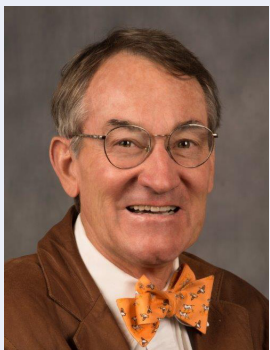


### IDAHO COURTROOM ARTIST QUALIFIES FOR NATIONAL CONTEST

Next month during the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Athens, Georgia, Mikayla Dougherty from Lewiston High School will be in attendance, representing Idaho. But she won't be playing a role as an attorney or a witness. Instead she will be Idaho's artist in the National Courtroom Artist Contest. [READ MORE](#)



## SPRING HAS (THANK GOODNESS!) SPRUNG



I'm always glad when spring finally arrives, especially in Pocatello where I live. While I admit I can get a little excited when we have our first snow, by the end of February I'm ready for winter to exit the stage and spring to enter. But here we are in April when we can (usually) start to have faith that the better weather is here to stay. Change is all around us. We shed our winter clothes. People seem more open and cheerful. And of course, we can spend more time outdoors witnessing nature open up and bloom.

So, as I look out my window, seeing spring blossoms all around me, I am thinking a lot about growth. At the same time, I was reviewing my materials in preparation for our upcoming Idaho Law Foundation Board meeting.

Unlike our weather, at the Foundation we don't have to wait until spring for things to transform. As a member of the Board, I've been able to learn a lot about how the Foundation's programs have grown over time. You can read about some of these changes in this edition of the newsletter.

We have recently welcomed Teresa Baker as our new Program and Legal Education Director, filling the role left by Mahmood Sheikh. Teresa will be a wonderful addition to our staff. Right out of the gate, she has set a goal to focus more on our [Lawyer Assistance Program](#), including providing more education for Idaho attorneys on how they can benefit from and implement these services into their practices.

Our [Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program](#) has put a greater focus on organizing legal clinics. Through these clinics, IVLP is able to recruit more attorneys and reach more people in need of civil legal services – people who might not otherwise have access to legal representation.

And our [Mock Trial Program](#) just finished another successful season. The Logos School from Moscow will be representing Idaho at the Nationals Championship in Athens, Georgia in May. They will be joined by a very talented young lady, Mikayla Dougherty, from Lewiston High School who will be participating in the Fourth Annual National Courtroom Artist Contest. This is the seventh year Idaho has included courtroom art as part of the Mock Trial Program.

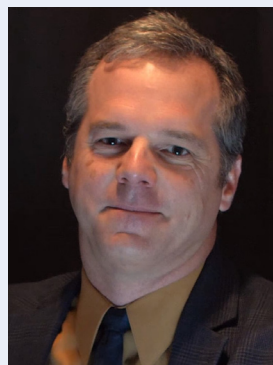
There's always so much going on with the Foundation Programs that it's hard to know what to highlight! But a couple of upcoming events are worth mentioning. [Law Day is coming up on May 1](#). In Boise we will be celebrating the annual [6.1 Challenge](#) and holding the kick-off event for our [Annual Access to Justice Campaign](#).

And in July, we will be holding our Law Foundation Annual Luncheon as part of the [Idaho State Bar's Annual Meeting](#). Last year we launched a [wonderful new video](#) to help the greater community understand more about our work. I'm told that this year some of our staff members are busy at work creating a new video that focuses on the strides the Foundation is able to make because of the support of our legal community. So, stay tuned!

Before I close, I would like to say a few words about Mahmood Sheikh. He was a tremendous asset for the Idaho Law Foundation in his years of service to our organization and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him. As a University of Idaho Alum, I look forward to seeing what he's able to accomplish as the new Associate Athletic Director for Development and I wish him well in his new adventures!

Like Mahmood, the rest of our Foundation staff is always working hard to represent the best we have to offer. As we move into spring and beyond I continue to be proud of the many ways we are able to plant the seeds that produce positive growth in our communities.

## MOCK TRIAL COACH FINISHES STRONG



When it was announced on March 15 that The Logos School from Moscow had won the Idaho High School Mock Trial state championship, the first thing team member Bennett Schlect did was walk over and give his dad and team coach, Chris, a warm embrace. Bennett wasn't the first of the Schlect children to get to celebrate a state victory with his father, but he will be the last. After 23 years serving at the helm of Logos' storied mock trial program, Chris Schlect will be retiring after his team competes at

the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Athens, Georgia next month.

Chris Schlect calls himself an accidental mock trial coach. In 1996 he was teaching at Logos and the teacher who had started the program a year earlier was leaving the school to take another job. "I didn't really know what mock trial was, but the previous coach encouraged me to keep the program going, so I stepped in as the teacher coach. I've been hooked on the program ever since." When Chris goes to nationals next month, it will be his 16th appearance as a coach, more than any other coach in the history of the entire National Mock Trial program.

Chris always found a way to continue his commitment to mock trial during very busy times in his life. During his coaching tenure he also earned both a Master's Degree and a Doctorate in History and became a college professor. And of course, he and his wife raised five children, who have been regulars in the program over the years. Chris says that "other than helping to raise five wonderful children, I know that helping run Logos' mock trial program has to be among my most significant accomplishments."

Chris indicated that being able to have a strong mock trial program starts with having support from the Law Related Education Program. He said that Idaho has a well-run mock trial program that fosters excellence in education. "The strength of Idaho's program was never more on display than it was in 2016 when Idaho hosted the National Championship. I've been to a lot of Nationals and Idaho's was easily one of the best run. I was really proud to get to be part of that."

While Chris will admit that he's a competitive person and is proud of Logos' success, he believes that mock trial is so much more than winning and losing. Mock trial changed the way he teaches. "Like anything in life, you get out of mock trial what you put into it."

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But the more you trust kids and give them agency to succeed, the more they will rise to the occasion. And even when you don't win, you can still feel a sense of accomplishment knowing you have put it all on the table."

For the Chris, his wife Brenda, and his children, mock trial has been a family tradition. All five children participated in the program. Chris says he has loved seeing his children, and all the young people he's coached over the years, grow and excel through their participation in mock trial.

Chris exits from the mock trial program with a lifetime's worth of wonderful memories and said there are too many to list. But one of the things he was most proud of was when team member Maggie Church was singled out for a special award in 2008 as the top mock trial student in the nation. Maggie returned for several years as a mock trial coach after graduating from college.

Chris Schlect has built an incredible legacy. But like all strong legacies, he leaves behind a foundation that can help carry a successful mock trial program at Logos well into the future. The Law Foundation is honored to have gotten to work with Chris over the years. We will miss his presence and wish him many great adventures in whatever comes next for him!

## SUPPORT THE LAW FOUNDATION ON IDAHO GIVES DAY



On Thursday, May 2 the Idaho Law Foundation will participate in Idaho Gives Day to build support for important civil legal services and civic education organized through the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers and Law Related Education Programs. And we're asking

Idaho attorneys to help us make our Idaho Gives campaign a success.

Idaho Gives Day has become a fun and important way for people all over our state to champion many types of community organizations. We know you have a lot of worthwhile options when it comes to making donations and will probably receive a lot of requests. Our hope is that keep the Law Foundation in the mix when it comes to deciding where you will give.

So, why do we think it's important to support the Law Foundation? A donation to our general fund is practical support that helps underwrite our entire operation. It keeps the lights on and helps us stay fully staffed. And it ensures that our staff can continue to represent the attorneys of Idaho as they go out into communities all over Idaho to offer civic and legal education and access to legal services.

Here's a couple ways you can support us on Idaho Gives Day, starting from our [Idaho Law Foundation Giving Page](#):

- ✦ **Give Us a Shout-Out:** You can click the Facebook or Twitter icon from our giving page to let your friends know you support the Idaho Law Foundation and encourage them to do the same.
- ✦ **Make a Donation:** We have set a modest goal to increase our overall donations from last year and raise a total of \$1,000. We ask you to consider a donation at a level that is meaningful to you.

Thank you to everyone for considering a gift to us on of Idaho Gives Day. You are making a difference to the lives of Idahoans! If you have any questions, feel free to contact [Carey Shoufler](#).

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The Idaho Law Foundation is pleased to announce that Teresa Baker has joined our staff as the Program and Legal Education Director. Her position will focus on organizing legal education opportunities for Idaho State Bar members, working with the 21 different practice sections that provide valuable services to practitioners in specific areas of the law, and managing special programs including the Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers and the Lawyers' Assistance Program.



Teresa earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Idaho College of Law and brings a wealth of impressive professional and volunteer experience to her new position. She had her first job in the legal profession during her four years in college working at the front desk of the Idaho State Law Library. After law school she was a clerk for Hon. Joel Horton when he was on the District Court bench. She has also worked as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Ada County, the Public Information Officer for the Idaho State Police, and served as the Director of Government Affairs and General Counsel for the Idaho Association of Counties.

But it was Teresa's service to her community that sparked her interest in joining the Idaho State Bar and Law Foundation. "Having spent many years volunteering for the Bar, I already had a connection to the organization and I knew it would be a great place to work." Her volunteer work includes serving as the Chair for the Government Section, the President of the Fourth District Bar Association. She was also Co-Chair of Idaho Partners Against Domestic Violence and a Commissioner for the Idaho Emergency Communication Commission.

Teresa has been in her position since the end of February and she's really enjoying learning the ropes. "It's been great getting to know all the people here and getting situated in my job."

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In her short time here, she's already helped lead sessions for the [Bar's Leadership Academy](#) and started organizing the [Bar's Annual Meeting](#) that will be held in Boise in July. She's excited about all the great Continuing Legal Education topics that will be offered at the Annual Meeting, particularly sessions on how people's social media is used in litigation, cyber security for lawyers and clients, and presentations from the judiciary.

Teresa's also looking forward to putting a greater focus providing support for the personal well-being of lawyers through [Bar's Lawyers' Assistance Program](#). In a 2016 study of the Journal of Addiction Medicine it was estimated that 20% of lawyers face struggles with addiction and mental health issues. Teresa believes that the Bar can offer help. "In my experience, I've seen attorneys that can use assistance with their personal issues but don't know how to ask for help. I want the Bar to be a place where attorneys know they can reach out if they need assistance." She believes that part of solution is more education and is working to develop Continuing Legal Education offerings that can teach lawyers how to get help in a crisis so they can better serve themselves and be more prepared to help their clients who may face similar crises.

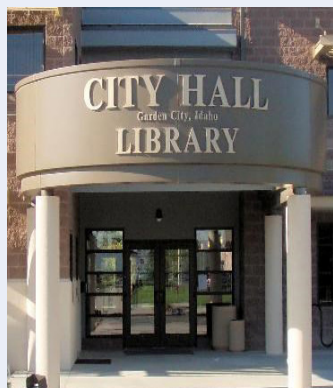
When Teresa's not working, she likes taking adventures to see live music and eat good food. She most recently enjoyed a trip to Austin. The staff and Board of the Law Foundation are happy to be a part of this new journey in her life!

## THE YEAR OF THE CLINIC

Across the nation, including in Idaho, there are significantly more low-income people in need of civil legal services than there are attorneys able to provide pro bono services for them. Idaho Volunteers Lawyers Program has been working to make sure that in Idaho we are doing all we can to address the legal needs of as many of those people as possible. For IVLP, adding more legal clinics across the state is the most achievable way to help bridge the justice gap in Idaho and provided service for more than 1,000 people in 2018.

Sue Pierson, IVLP Legal Director believes that legal clinics make sense for many reasons. "More people can receive help in a short period of time and it's easier for attorneys to volunteer for a two hour clinic once per month than take on case with an unpredictable time commitment."

A quality clinic requires an accessible location, consistent outreach to potential clients, and committed volunteers. Partnering with other community organizations has allowed IVLP to tap into the manpower necessary for ongoing outreach and registration. One such partnership will begin in April with the Garden City Library that will offer a monthly general advice free legal clinic.



Jamie Thrill, Adult Services and Outreach Coordinator, at the library saw a need in her community and contacted IVLP to inquire about the legal services we offer. The end result was a commitment to develop a legal clinic hosted by the library that will be held in the library's beautiful city council chambers. Jamie has taken the lead on outreach and also acts as the pre-registration contact. IVLP recruits the attorneys and runs the clinic.

As the population in Boise and the surrounding communities continues its explosive growth, offering additional legal clinics will be an important way to increase the number of people accessing legal services.

IVLP will also offer a new family law clinic at the Canyon County Courthouse in partnership with the Court Assistance Office. Sue Pierson indicated that there have been increased requests from Canyon County for assistance with family law matters. "Due to the limited number of private practice attorneys in Canyon County, IVLP has struggled to find attorneys in the area to help with family law cases. A family law clinic is a viable solution that makes it easier for attorneys to commit for a couple hours a month."

Government lawyers from Canyon County will staff the family law clinics, which will significantly increase the number of available volunteers. This promises to be a busy clinic with both the Court Assistance Office and IVLP providing a steady stream of referrals.

Attorneys interested in volunteering can sign up to help with clinics by visiting IVLP's [Pro Bono Opportunities Website](#). All actively licensed attorneys are pre-registered with site and only need to activate their accounts using their Bar number and an email provided to ISB.

IVLP encourages attorneys to volunteer to help with legal clinics, fulfilling their professional responsibility to provide legal services to those of limited means, and helping IVLP improve access to justice for all Idahoans.

## HAVING FUN & SUPPORTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE



In 2014, Idaho State Bar Associate Director Maureen Ryan Braley participated in the Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers. Program participants are tasked with developing a legacy project to benefit the legal profession or their local communities. It was there that Maureen created the Access to Justice Idaho Fund Run/Walk, now in its sixth year.

In developing this event, Maureen decided to include several elements that are important in her life. "I knew I wanted my legacy project to be some sort of charitable event and definitely something outside and active. I tried to think of causes that were in line with my experience as a lawyer and my interest in public service." That same year the Access to Justice Campaign was new. This campaign raises funds to support the three principal providers of free civil legal services for poor and vulnerable Idahoans. Maureen decided her idea of an event would be a great way to help this important cause. 100% of registration dues support the Access to Justice Idaho Campaign.

This Fund Run/Walk is a non-competitive, family and dog-friendly, 5K event. Kids and adults alike enjoy a scenic course that includes Boise's beautiful foothills. Event participants receive some great swag at the finish line, including event t-shirts and bagels for human participants and bandanas and dog treats for the canines in the group.

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There are also medals awarded to the top 3 men and women, top 3 high school boys and girls, and top 3 children under 12.

Since its first year, the event has raised over \$32,000 for the Access to Justice Idaho Campaign. It has grown a lot over the years. In 2014, just over 100 people signed up to participate and it raised about \$2,500. By 2018 there were nearly 200 people register and the event raised over \$9,700. Last year, there was even a man who traveled from Portland to be part of the run after finding the online registration website.

Maureen is proud to have created an event that benefits such an important cause, is fun, and celebrates Idaho's outdoors. "It is amazing to me that the event is now in its 6th year, after I started it from nothing! It has a life of its own now and keeps growing."

Her hope is that the Access to Justice Fund Run/Walk will raise at least \$10,000 in 2019. In future years, Maureen would love to have a more official timing system for the more competitive participants and include a band and food trucks at the finish line for people who want to have fun.

Visit the [Access to Justice Fund Run/Walk event page](#) to sign up to participate. For more information, including event sponsorship inquiries, contact [Maureen Ryan Braley](#).

## IDAHO COURTROOM ARTIST QUALIFIES FOR NATIONAL CONTEST

Next month during the National High School Mock Trial Championship in Athens Georgia, Mikayla Dougherty from Lewiston High School will be in attendance, representing Idaho. But she won't be playing a role as an attorney or a witness. Instead she will be Idaho's artist in the National Courtroom Artist Contest. Her tasks will be to observe trials with an eye towards finding the most interesting or newsworthy action and accurately depict a chosen scene in a sketch that must be completed by the end of a two-hour round of competition.

Courtroom art is a wonderful artistic and journalistic endeavor and an important part of our legal heritage. But, with the ability of courts to provide video recordings of their proceedings, you don't see courtroom art as often as you once may have. To nurture this important tradition, Idaho's mock trial program has included a courtroom artist contest as part of its program since 2013.

Idaho's courtroom artist contest is open to students in grades 9 to 12 and allows artistically talented students the opportunity to participate in Idaho's mock trial program. The top finishers at regional competitions are invited to participate in the state mock trial competition. Submissions at both the regional and state level are judged by a panel of artists. The top three finishers are awarded cash prizes and the winning drawings are displayed at the offices of the Idaho Law Foundation.

The top finisher at state is eligible to represent Idaho as part of the National High School Mock Trial Championship. The National Courtroom Artist Contest was piloted in Boise in 2016 and follows a similar format to Idaho's contest, with the top three entries acknowledged at an awards ceremony at the end of the competition weekend.

This is Mikayla's first year participating as a courtroom artist. As someone who is interested in art, (in fact, Mikayla will be begin her studies next year at UNLV in fine art, with a focus on drawing, painting and printmaking) she was excited when she heard an announcement saying that one of the ways she could participate in mock trial was as a courtroom artist.

She says it ended up being a really good experience for her. "When I went to the state competition I got to hang out with and meet other artists. When I was not at the competition, one of the parents from another team came up to me and complimented me on my art. It was pretty sweet!"

Mikayla will be traveling to Athens with her teacher and mock trial coach, Shannon VanBuren, who believes that courtroom art is a great opportunity for student-artists to improve their skills and present their work to others. "It has been such a wonderful experience to have the courtroom artists as part of the mock trial program. They bring a vibrant spirit to the competition and it has always been great seeing their work."

Ms. VanBuren looks forward to seeing what Mikayla can accomplish at the national competition in Athens. "I know she will get to experience new ways to portray scenes and better her art." Mikayla is also eager to create courtroom art on a national stage and meet other artists from all over the country.

To view past courtroom artist submissions, visit the [Idaho Mock Trial web page](#). For more information about Idaho's Courtroom Artist Contest, contact [Carey Shoufler](#).

