



2016
IDAHO STATE BAR
Awards Program



CONGRATULATIONS
2016 Award Recipients!

IDAHO STATE BAR AWARDS PROGRAM
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DISTINGUISHED LAWYERS

Dale G. Higer

What does a distinguished career in the legal field look like? Take a quick peek at Dale Higer's dedication to his profession and his community and you will see why his colleagues, partners and opposing counsel nominated him for a Distinguished Lawyer Award.

Higer was born and raised in Emmett, where his father, also an attorney, served three terms in the Idaho Legislature and as a prosecuting attorney. Higer's mother served on the school board and was president of the Idaho Federated Women's Club. In his interview, Higer mentioned when he was growing up: "It was not so much about whether I would do public service, but how."

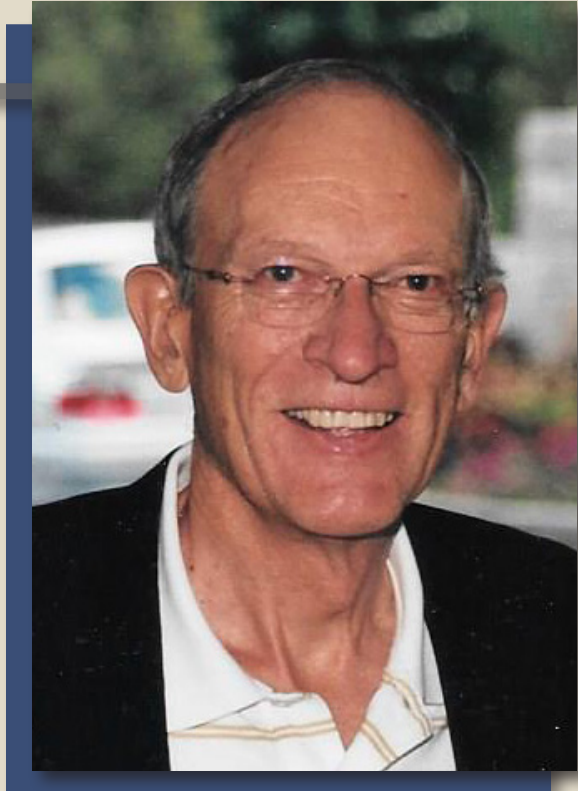
Higer attended the University of Washington, going on to earn his J.D. at Harvard Law School in 1966. His career has focused on areas of banking, creditor's rights, bankruptcy, real estate, general business practice and estate planning.

Rex Blackburn, Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Idaho Power, wrote: "Dale has served his profession with skill, professionalism, civility and overall distinction since 1966 [49 years]. I cannot identify a more deserving candidate."

Higer earns high marks from clients as well. Chief Operating Officer at Investors Financial, Scott Taylor, wrote: "I have come to realize the breadth of [Higer's] experience and dedication to the practice of law in its broadest sense. I fondly recall a past associate who fittingly referred to Dale as the 'Dean of Real Estate.'"

In the Boise community, Higer has served as a member, director or chair of 15 separate nonprofit agencies - a portfolio diverse enough to include everything from the Boise Art Museum to the Idaho Mental Health Association. Other projects and community roles have included the Idaho Botanical Gardens, serving as Chair of the Boise Planning and Zoning Commission and lobbying for tax incremental legislation.

Higer's example of fairness and civility is perhaps most easily seen in his work on the state and national levels. Higer worked to remove inconsistencies in laws across state boundaries



“It was not so much about whether I would do public service, but how.”

when he eventually became involved in the Idaho and National Uniform Law Commission (ULC). Started in 1892, the ULC is the nation's oldest state government association comprised of sitting judges, academics and lawyers from every state.

He has served as Commissioner to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws for the last 24 years and has also served on various uniform act drafting committees. Additionally, Higer has acted as Chair of the Idaho Commission on Uniform State Laws since 2001. "We do it because we love what we do," Higer said. Last year Higer spent about 360 hours on commission business and looking ahead, Higer said he would like to keep working "as long as I can."

Higer and his wife, Ramona, have been married for 43 years and have two daughters. One daughter, Sarah, is corporate counsel for Idaho Power. The other daughter, Allegra, is an HR specialist at St. Luke's.

Wendy J. Olson

Having worked for 24 years at the United States Attorney's Office, Wendy Olson appreciates her unique vantage point in the legal world – one through which she sees the U.S. Constitution “at play every day” in the lives of victims, suspects, law enforcement and fellow lawyers.

In her interview, Olson spoke about her own values and supportive upbringing. Her father, Bill, earned the Distinguished Lawyer Award in 2008. He practiced in Pocatello for many years, even when there were only a mere handful of lawyers in their small town.

Olson's early encounters with justice influenced her decision to step into the legal profession. Olson recalled a moment in her childhood when the need for justice became evident: “of course [my parents] told us girls we can do anything boys can do.” With this in mind, Olson tried out for her local little league team. She was turned away, “even though [she] was better than many of the boys.” At that time, Title IX was making headlines across the country. Olson mentioned, “They were worried that if they turned me away again, there would have been a legal challenge.” The next year she made the team. “I saw personally how the law can bring fairness and justice to people's lives.”

This impression of justice stuck. Olson went on to study journalism at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, but decided she wasn't ready to get a job yet. “I wanted my work to bring fairness and justice.” Olson went on an accelerated program at Stanford Law School, where she earned a law degree in 1990.

She clerked for U.S. Chief District Court Judge Barbara Rothstein in Seattle, then joined the Department of Justice as a trial attorney in the Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, for four years in Washington, D.C., yet much of her work was in the Deep South. At the end of her Civil Rights Division tenure, she worked on a task force to investigate church burnings and other hate crimes. Working her way up the ranks, Olson was sworn in as U.S. Attorney for the District of Idaho in 2010, having been nominated by President Barack Obama.

Olson's standards have remained the same throughout her career - to cherish justice and fairness. Olson added that the



“*I wanted my work to bring fairness and justice.*”

virtues she values in others are the same ones she tries to measure in herself. Among them is humility. “You have to be able to question your assumptions, even when you get it right.”

Olson explained that much of what colors her professional life stems from the context of the U.S. Attorney's Office. “We have the luxury to do what's right on every single case. We don't have the crush of cases that face state courts. We don't have the classic individual clientele. Our job is to do justice. In an institution this big you can expect some group-think, but we try to avoid it. We're counted on to do the right thing.” Olson said she thinks a lot about the victims. She added that no matter how heinous the crime, “we must take a neutral attitude towards evidence, to make sure it is gathered fairly and justly.”

Olson said the following about her career: “It's intriguing, challenging, exhilarating. It makes it easy to go to work every morning, [especially due to the] legal and ethical questions associated with the digital age.” Constantly, “we have to think about how the Constitution applies.”

Among numerous other accolades, Olson received the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award in 2011. She and her husband, Craig, have two daughters, three dogs and live in Boise.

DISTINGUISHED LAWYERS

S. Richard Rubin

Samuel Richard “Dick” Rubin earned his reputation in Idaho as the Executive Director of Federal Defender Services of Idaho, Inc., a non-profit corporation protecting defendants’ Sixth Amendment rights, where he has been employed for the last 22 years. His involvement in the University of Idaho’s Trial Advocacy Program, the Idaho Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, Continuing Legal Education courses and various other trial skills events has given him much-deserved regional acclaim.

Each spring for the past 35 years, Rubin has taught at Emory University’s Kessler-Eidson Program for Trial Techniques in Atlanta, Georgia. Rubin was among the first participants in the program from its inception. Rubin is deeply connected to Emory University’s mission, serving as adjunct faculty for 15 years. What he enjoys about his work at Emory over the years is learning from the students – adding that interactions among the 300 students and 120 faculty members instilled a deep appreciation for the finer points of courtroom strategy.

Rubin attended the University of Iowa for his undergraduate studies, where he found his first inspiration to go to law school. Rubin’s English Professor, Alice Stewart, was the source of this professional encouragement. “She directed me to look at law as a profession.”

Growing up, Rubin remembers possessing a keen awareness and deep concern for economic, racial and social injustices. “I always seemed to be troubled by the plight of those who were disadvantaged and lacked a chance in life.” With this in mind, he applied to law school where he later met his wife, Suzanne.

After Rubin graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law, he and his wife moved to Atlanta, Georgia – a place with big ambitions and a rapidly changing power structure. Rubin began working as a law clerk and then decided to strike out on his own. Rubin reminisced: “I’d go to the jail on Monday morning and check with judges. I got \$25 for each case I handled; \$50 if it was a felony. That gave me experience and a free breakfast.”



“Our function is to make sure that individuals who have no voice are given a voice in the criminal justice system.”

Rubin maintained a successful private practice in Atlanta for 25 years. It was during this time that Rubin became one of the five founders of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers – an organization whose membership now numbers 1,800. Rubin recounts the organization’s mission: “Our function is to make sure that individuals who have no voice are given a voice in the criminal justice system.”

After his time as a solo practitioner in the late 1960s, Rubin and a close friend set out to open their own practice. Their firm was one of the first integrated law firms in Atlanta and since then Rubin has seen numerous changes in the way lawyers practice. Their integrated firm highlighted the transition of Atlanta’s economic base moving from white to black and Rubin remembers it to have been “a wonderful transition.”

Rubin and his wife, Suzanne, have been married for 48 years. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Robert E. Williams III

Growing up in the small farming town of Jerome, Idaho, Robert Williams often thought of spreading his wings and going to college in the big city. "Although I was the son of the town dentist, my friends and I had every rotten job you could have on a farm. We hoed beets, picked rock, hauled hay and cleaned the barn stalls. No one was exempt."

After years of hard work on the farm, Williams graduated from Jerome High School and went on to attend the University of Utah with a basketball scholarship. After his first two years at the University of Utah, Williams headed to New Zealand where he served his LDS mission; Williams transferred to Brigham Young University (BYU) upon his return. Earning a degree in political science from BYU in 1971, Williams married a Jerome girl, Susan Thompson, in August of that same year and a week later they left for law school at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. Williams held onto his childhood dream of making it in the big city – Chicago made that dream a reality.

At the time, Williams was inspired by the late President John F. Kennedy and the ongoing civil rights movement. He recalls: "I was idealistic about creating a better world through the practice of law. You could sense that the civil rights legislation was necessary to right the wrongs of the past and could see the progress being made. It was exhilarating. I knew I wanted to get into the courtroom."

As he approached graduation, Williams interviewed for several jobs in Chicago and elsewhere. Eventually, Williams and his wife made a trip back to Jerome to visit both of their large, close-knit families. "Our oldest, Matt, was 16 months old and when we put him on the grass he was beside himself...he had never felt the touch of grass. That's when we finally decided to return [to Idaho]. We didn't want our kids to miss out on what we loved about Idaho. I took a cram-course for the Idaho bar at the University of Idaho, passed the exam and then an opportunity came open in my home town."

During his interview, Williams highlighted several positive influences to his practice; namely, Frank Rettig and Gene Fredericksen, who first hired him, Jim Meservy and John Lothspeich, his longtime law partners, and Judge Theron Ward.

Williams took all sorts of cases at the beginning of his career,



"I was idealistic about creating a better world through the practice of law."

however he mentioned that his practice "began tilting to agriculture and business transactions." Williams said he "spoke the lingo and had an affinity for this."

From the late 1970s through the 1990s, the traditional farm economy of the Jerome area "flipped completely" as a new generation of dairymen from California moved northward. "Those transplants, some who came with capital and some who came with nothing but an idea and a desire to work hard, became my clients," said Williams.

Many of his clients have remained with him for 30 years or more. "I have a class of clients who still call me 'Robby,' my childhood nickname. To be able to serve the legal needs of those folks has been particularly gratifying to me." Williams views the law as a tool to help people, their businesses and society, and he believes it to be a noble calling which he respects wherever he sees it.

Throughout his vibrant career in the legal field, Williams has enjoyed the pleasures of family. "I have had the best of both worlds. Jerome has been a wonderful place to practice law and raise a family. Coming back was a great decision."

He and Susan have seven children, all with college degrees, and 13 grandchildren. One of his sons, Brian, practices with him.

DISTINGUISHED JURIST

Hon. Karen L. Lansing

Judge Karen Lansing, born and raised in Idaho, built a career in her home state filled with extensive service to the legal profession and a legacy of professionalism, fairness and civility. She completed her undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Idaho and her Juris Doctorate at the University of Washington School of Law in 1978. Her first position entailed working as an assistant city attorney for the City of Boise. A year later she joined the firm of Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley where she went on to make partner after six years.

In 1993, she was appointed to the Idaho Court of Appeals by Governor Cecil Andrus, where she sat on about 9,000 cases and authored more than 2,600 appellate decisions. She said although she thought opinion-writing would be a snap, it was an invigorating challenge:

“The thoroughness of research and the precision that are required for a precedent-setting, publishable opinion makes crafting an opinion quite different from writing a brief. My goal was to prepare opinions that would not only accurately apply the law to resolve the issues on appeal, but would also explain our decision in a way that would demonstrate that the result in the case was fair and just. Crafting opinions that approached that goal proved to be much more challenging and time-consuming than I expected. The result was that in my early years as a judge, I developed quite a long backlog of cases that were assigned to me to author.”

Judge Lansing spent substantial time serving on various judicial committees including chairing the Idaho Supreme Court’s Advisory Committee on the Idaho Rules of Evidence, co-chairing the Judicial Recruitment Committee, serving on the Appellate Rules Committee and serving on the Fairness and Equality Committee. In addition, she volunteered as a member of the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program Policy Council from 1985 to 1996 and on the Idaho Law Foundation Long Range Planning Committee from 1999 to 2001. She received the Idaho State Bar Denise O’Donnell Day Pro Bono Award in 1993.

Judge Lansing said that while some aspects of the job can be isolating, she enjoys hearing oral arguments and the “give and take” between lawyers and judges. “It was such a pleasure to hear the truly skilled oral advocates elegantly deliver their arguments, with ready answers to the questions from the bench. It made me proud of the profession.”

Judge Lansing retired from the Idaho Court of Appeals this year, but will still continue as a part-time Senior Judge. In her retirement announcement, Judge Lansing stated, “the opportunity to serve Idahoans as a Court of Appeals judge has been one of the greatest honors of my life.”



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SERVICE AWARDS



Melanie E. Baillie, *James, Vernon & Weeks - Coeur d'Alene*

"My father showed us by his example that service to one's profession and community was not only personally rewarding, it is the right thing to do. There is always a need for rolled up sleeves, for leadership, for shared resources. Giving of one's time and talents is an obligation we should all feel, but it is also richly rewarding."

Highlights of her service:

- Idaho State Bar Family Law Section – *Chair 2014-15; Vice-Chair 2013-14; Secretary 2012-13*
- First District Bar Association – *President 2012-13; Vice President 2011-12; Secretary 2010-11*
- Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program Policy Council
- Idaho Law Foundation Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee
- Idaho High School Mock Trial Program Judge
- University of Idaho Mediation Competition Judge
- Idaho State Bar Annual Meeting – *Presenter 2015*
- Family Law Section CLE presenter
- Idaho Trial Lawyers Association Executive Committee on Recruitment
- Safe Passage Program volunteer
- Court Appointed Special Advocates volunteer



Allan R. Bosch, *Capitol Law Group - Boise*

"We all have a responsibility to make each other better practitioners. The public relies on us to police ourselves so all of us have a responsibility to do what we can to make the Bar the best it can be. Our ethical duties demand no less. The God-given talents we possess are not to be hoarded but shared and in our simple ways make our community, whether locally or globally, better for all. Never underestimate the good one can do. Each of us has talents that can be used to serve many and not just the paying customer."

Highlights of his service:

- Idaho State Bar Advanced Estate Planning Conference Committee – *Chair 2002-13*
- Idaho Youth Ranch – *Chair 2010-12*
- National Institute of Pension Administrators, Idaho Chapter – *President 1998-99*
- Boise Estate Planning Council – *President 1996-97*
- Idaho State Bar Taxation, Probate & Trust Law Section – *Chair 1995-96*
- Boise Metro Club – *President 1994-95*
- Catholic Charities of Idaho board member
- Boise Housing Corporation

SERVICE AWARDS



Peter D. Christofferson, *Holden, Kidwell, Hahn & Crapo - Idaho Falls*

"To be honest, I started simply because I was asked. I see being involved as a part of my professional responsibility as an attorney. I am inspired by the colleagues I am surrounded with who all do a lot to serve. They are as busy as I am and somehow they find the time to do it. Seeing all they do so selflessly, I run out of excuses pretty fast. You don't have to be extraordinarily brilliant or skilled to serve. You simply have to be willing. There's a place for you if you want to get involved."

Highlights of his service:

- Idaho State Bar Real Property Section – *Chair 2012-13*
- Idaho Law Foundation (ILF) Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Committee Member
- ILF CLE presenter
- Basketball and soccer coach
- Active in church youth group leadership



Yecora Leaphart Daniels, *Idaho Power Company - Boise*

"I think my husband described it best, on a day somewhere in the middle of law school, when he asked me 'Do you ever say 'no' when someone asks you to help?' And, quite honestly, I don't know that I had ever consciously considered that as an option when something needed handling.

I got involved with professional and personal volunteer activities because I saw an opening and because it was my turn. When I see an opportunity to serve, I am inspired by one of the most selfless givers and most active volunteers I have ever met, and her motto that 'If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot.'

Every time I have said 'yes,' in hindsight I know that I am lucky to have done so. Every opportunity, even those that I think will be a small or short obligation, often leads to something greater. I get to meet new people and develop great friendships and professional connections. One of the greatest lessons I learned from the Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers was the idea that even little favors can have a big impact."

Highlights of her service:

- Third District Bar Association – *President 2014-16; Secretary 2013-14*
- Access to Justice Idaho Committee – *2015*
- Bar Exam Grading – *2014-15*
- Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers – *Graduate Class of 2014-15*
- Concordia University School of Law – *Legacy Mentor; Career Services and Career Fair volunteer*
- Emmett Little League board member
- Canyon County Youth Court Judge

SERVICE AWARDS



Richard A. Diehl Jr., *City of Pocatello - Pocatello*

"Having served in the United States Marine Corps, as well as working in the public sector, I have seen the need to assist in my community. One person can improve a small part of their community, which in turn has a ripple effect. Part of my inspiration comes from seeing others serve and the enjoyment they experience."

Highlights of his service:

- Sixth District Bar Association – *President 2015-16; Vice President 2014-15; Treasurer 2013-14*
- Bar Exam Grading
- Idaho Food Bank volunteer
- Helped establish Idaho State University's Service Members and Veterans Clinics
- Parish Council for his church – *Eucharistic Minister; Lecturer*
- Highland High School Mock Trial Judge
- Law Day presenter at local high schools



Deborah A. Ferguson, *Ferguson Durham - Boise*

"I could see the value a leadership program would offer its attorneys, both for the skills, as well as a means of connecting engaged attorneys throughout the state. After my term on the Bar Commission, I made a proposal to the Board of Commissioners to create a leadership program, which was approved and then in 2010, the process began. With the help of Mahmood Sheikh, the Staff Liaison, and a small steering committee, the Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers (IALL) was born.

The steering committee of five allowed us to design an excellent program for Idaho from scratch. I am so proud to see IALL thrive, and continue to develop and improve.

Reading the glowing year-end surveys from the inaugural class, I knew we were on to something and felt so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of creating this new program. I was so impressed by the diversity of talent on the steering committee and in the classes, and the wonderful interconnectedness of the program. By far, it has been the most rewarding and meaningful professional contribution of my career."

Highlights of her service:

- American Bar Association – *Idaho State Bar Delegate; Legal Access Job Corps Task Force; Committee on Resolution and Impact Review*
- Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers – *Steering Committee Founder / Chair 2011-2015*
- Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners – *President 2011*
- Federal Bar Association, Idaho Chapter
- American Inns of Court
- Idaho Women Lawyers – *Board of Directors*
- Idaho District Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Working Group
- Idaho Supreme Court Judicial Recruitment Committee

SERVICE AWARDS



Hon. David D. Manweiler, *Ada County Magistrate Court - Boise*

"My father, Howard, believed it was important for lawyers to give back to their community and legal profession. I always get a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction from volunteering. Additionally, I make connections and develop relationships with other professionals and attorneys throughout the state."

Highlights of his service.

- Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program Policy Council
- Bar Exam Grading
- Court Appointed Special Advocates volunteer
- Law Day volunteer
- Pro Bono Award Recipient - 2001



Celeste K. Miller, *McDevitt & Miller - Boise*

"I have served the mock trial program in various capacities - as a judge, a member and chair of the Law Related Education Committee that runs it, a coach for nine years of the Bishop Kelly mock trial teams (several of which became state champions), and most recently as a co-chair of the Idaho Law Foundation's committee that brought the National High School Mock Trial Championship event to Boise.

In each of these endeavors I have been inspired by three primary factors: other people in these programs who are involved in and committed to enhancing our community; opportunities where I have been able to make sensible contributions; and the observable, positive outcomes these programs have generated.

From each of these endeavors I gained more from the experience than I gave to it. While I have occasionally had ideas, time and experience to give in service to the community, I am pleasantly surprised to learn the breadth of impact even one person can have in educational, philanthropic and other community programs such as the ones in which I have so enjoyed participating."

Highlights of her service.

- Idaho National Mock Trial Competition – *Host Committee Co-Chair*
- Idaho Law Foundation Law Related Education Committee
- Idaho High School Mock Trial Program volunteer
- Bishop Kelly High School Mock Trial Coach
- Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation – *Grants Chair*
- Court Appointed Special Advocates volunteer

SERVICE AWARDS



J. Walter Sinclair, *Holland & Hart - Boise*

"My profession and my community have been very kind to me both professionally and personally. There are many in our communities who need our help to make their lives a little better and I am committed to helping make a difference where I can.

The more you give, the more you get back in return. Knowing you have helped someone live a better life is a wonderful gratification."

Highlights of his service.

- Federal Bar Association, Idaho Chapter – *President*
- Idaho Legal History Society – *Treasurer*
- U.S. Supreme Court Historical Society - *State Membership Chair*
- Access to Justice Idaho Committee – *Chair 2014-15*
- University of Idaho Law School Advisory Council
- International Academy of Trial Attorneys - *Co-State Chair*
- American Heart Association, Idaho Chapter – *Chair of Natural Board*
- Idaho Shakespeare Festival – *President of the Board of Trustees*
- Learning Lab Advisory Board

SECTION OF THE YEAR

Family Law Section

The Family Law Section contributes to their area of practice, to the legal profession and to the community in a number of ways: by producing and sponsoring Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs, updating and publishing the Family Law Handbook, and supporting various legal assistance programs and other organizations with generous financial contributions.

The Section consistently develops and presents several quality CLEs each year, including full-day programs in the fall. Frequently collaborating with other sections to sponsor CLEs, last spring alone the Section partnered with the Animal Law Section, Professionalism & Ethics Section and Young Lawyers Section for a number of events. The Family Law Section also provides scholarships for members to attend CLE programs, including the Idaho State Bar's Annual Meeting and for Idaho Legal Aid attorneys to attend the Section's October CLE series.

The Section developed the Family Law Handbook and Formbook to provide easily-accessible and useful information for family law attorneys - both were updated in 2015. The Section also has a vibrant ListServ where their members can ask and answer family law related questions.

In addition to supporting attorney education, the Section supports legal assistance and legal education programs with substantial monetary donations. Since 2014, the Section has donated \$8,500 to the Access to Justice Idaho campaign, which supports the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, Idaho Legal Aid Services and DisAbility Rights Idaho – all groups that provide legal assistance to Idahoans in need. The Family Law Section also donates to other causes, including a \$500 donation to the Diversity Section for its "Love the Law" program.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYERS



Sunrise A. Ayers

Sunrise Ayers, 35, graduated *cum laude* from the Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College and is a managing attorney at Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc. (ILAS), practicing elder law, fair housing, consumer contracts, Medicaid, advanced directives, foreclosures, debt collection and landlord/tenant disputes. As part of her law practice at ILAS, Ayers serves as Housing Chair, which involves creating and coordinating training materials for attorneys practicing housing law. In addition, she created a coalition to better respond to needs of identity theft victims in Idaho and now serves as project manager for identity theft issues.

To add to her compassion for helping people, Ayers also has a special place in her heart for animals. In college, Ayers became involved with the Animal Law Review and was a member of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. Ayers played a significant role in the development of the Idaho State Bar Animal Law Section and now serves as Chair. She is involved with the Humane Society of the United States, with a specific focus on initiatives such as the Cage-Free Egg Campaign. She is also on the Spay Neuter Idaho Pets Board of Directors.

Ayers is on the Idaho Law Foundation's Board of Directors, has served on the Pro Bono Commission since 2008 and teaches as an Adjunct Clinical Professor at Concordia University School of Law. She lives in Boise with her husband, son and two rescued kittens.



Michael W. Brown

Michael Brown, 36, is a Wyoming native who moved to Idaho and has distinguished his career by taking care of clients, establishing trust and growing his firm as a Co-Managing Partner of Beard St. Clair Gaffney PA.

His partner, John Avondet, wrote in his nomination: "Michael has approached this responsibility with probity and insight. He has brought a thorough and sincere approach to the firm as we have faced challenges in the evolution of the practice, developments in technology and cloud-based computing."

Avondet also pointed out how adept Brown was at taking over the elder law practice of a senior attorney. "This left Michael with a significant estate planning and transactional practice to manage. He has done so in remarkable fashion."

Brown is licensed in Idaho, Colorado and Utah, and is a graduate from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. He practices transactional law with a focus on business, estate planning and administration and real estate.

Brown and his wife, Lindsey, live in Rexburg and are parents of four daughters. He currently serves as President of the Rexburg Kiwanis Club and serves at his church in various capacities. Additionally, Brown is a frequent guest lecturer at Brigham Young University-Idaho on topics such as patent law and intellectual property.

FAMILY LAW SECTION AWARD OF DISTINCTION



Susan Roy

Susan Roy has long dedicated herself to solving problems and helping the families of Twin Falls, where she has lived and practiced family law since 1976. Roy credits her law partner, Brent Nielson, as a great example and mentor. Her view of the law was also influenced by Lloyd Web and Ken Pedersen.

Beyond her daily work in the legal field, Roy contributes by teaching courses on family law topics. She also assisted in the creation and promulgation of the Idaho Child Support Guidelines in 1978 and serves on the Child Support Guidelines Committee. She earned the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award in 2009.

Roy earned her undergraduate degree from California State University in Chico, and her J.D. at the University of California, Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. She is very active in her community as a member of numerous organizations including the Magic Valley Tennis Association, Golf Association and the Magic Valley Road and Dirt Bike Association. Roy and her husband, Ken, have two children.

DIVERSITY SECTION “JUSTICE FOR ALL” AWARD



Hon. Sergio A. Gutierrez

Idaho Court of Appeals Judge Sergio Gutierrez is a longtime advocate for diversity and fairness in the Idaho legal community from his beginning as an attorney for Idaho Legal Aid Services, to his work encouraging minorities in the legal field. He served on the Idaho Judicial Council and is the state's first Hispanic judge.

Judge Gutierrez is active in his community. He enjoys taking time to visit schools and other youth organizations to inspire students to pursue their education.

Judge Gutierrez serves as Chair of the Idaho Supreme Court Fairness and Equality Committee and Co-Chair of the Judicial Recruitment Committee. He has previously served as a member of several other Supreme Court Committees, including those dedicated to civil, jury, drug court and discovery rules. Judge Gutierrez was a member of the Governor's Coordinating Council for Children and Families, the Governor's Criminal Justice Commission and the Governor's Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. He also co-founded the Idaho State Bar Diversity Section.

Judge Gutierrez earned his GED through the Job Corps. He then went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree, *cum laude*, in Elementary Education from Boise State University. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Hastings College of Law. Of these degrees, Judge Gutierrez remains most proud of his GED because, as he says, "It gave me a new start in life."

As a young lawyer, Judge Gutierrez practiced in southwest Idaho. In November of 1993, Governor Cecil D. Andrus appointed him as a District Judge. He was retained for two elections and also served as Administrative District Judge. Governor Dirk Kempthorne appointed Judge Gutierrez to serve on the Idaho Court of Appeals beginning in January 2002 and he subsequently was elected to serve two full terms.

PROFESSIONALISM AWARDS



Peter C. Erbland
Lake City Law Group
Coeur d'Alene
FIRST DISTRICT

Ideals

I admire and try to emulate lawyers who demonstrate complete commitment to their clients. Whether the lawyer is representing, for example, an indigent criminal defendant, injured plaintiff, or corporate defendant, you can tell early on if he or she is truly committed to the cause. I also admire those lawyers who succeed while being decent to opposing counsel and parties. It brings honor to our profession.

Inspirations

I have been fortunate to have had several excellent mentors over the years. Former District Judge Gary Haman taught me a lot about how to try a case, with hard lessons on the rules of evidence by sustaining objections to my direct and cross examinations, excluding my proffered evidence, and denying my motions... all mostly correctly. My friend Marc Haws set an example of excellence in advocacy. Magistrate Bob Burton showed how the law is still best applied with common sense and a fundamental sense of right and wrong. My former partner, the late Eugene Miller, set an example of never backing down when the client is right, but gracefully conceding or compromising when he or she is not. My partners at Lake City Law, some of whom I have been with for over 20 years, continue to impress me with their commitment to our clients and to each other.

Friendly Advice to New Attorneys

If you have clients who will not follow your advice, or continue to behave badly in the course of your representation, they do not deserve you as their lawyer. Let them go. It's not worth it. Also, when you find you are mired in the drudgery part of law practice, remember why you became a lawyer and how hard you worked to get here. Success rarely comes without hard work, and you will regain your passion for our profession. Try not to take professional losses or disappointments personally. We all lose cases and clients. Just like our parents told us, get up, dust yourself off and get back in the game. Finally, take time for yourself. We can't effectively deliver on our commitments to our clients without being regularly refreshed by family, good friends and interests other than law.



Paul L. Clark
Kirsch and Clark
Moscow
SECOND DISTRICT

Ideals

Generosity with time and knowledge. My mentor and law partner, Bill Kirsch, exemplifies this. He loves to mentor law students and young lawyers. He takes time for clients, never rushing or dismissing their concerns and always treating pro bono or impoverished clients with as much respect and dignity as those who can pay. I also benefit from the free sharing of knowledge among Idaho Elder Law attorneys dealing with Medicaid issues.

A problem solving approach to client issues. A focus on what will most quickly and inexpensively solve the client's problem with the least damage to personal, community and business relationships is better in the short and long term for our clients and society.

Inspirations

I am a true believer in justice, the rule of law, due process and equal protection. These are the values that excite me and balance my deep cynicism. Our legal and governmental system is imperfect but it has good bones. My clients are primarily of modest means or indigent. I want them to have an equal chance of receiving the government benefits they qualify for as their more affluent or savvy neighbors. Holding the government accountable and fighting for my client's rights energizes my law practice.

I have also absorbed an ethic of service from my parents and religious training. Professional satisfaction comes when I can tell a client that the claim was decided in their favor – after two or more years of waiting, being doubted and suspected of faking. The teary hugs make the frustration, tedium and long hours in the office seem less of a burden and more of a job benefit.

Friendly Advice to New Attorneys

Earn a living, but find a passion. Whatever your practice area, do it well. Ask yourself, "What will opposing counsel think when he or she finds out I am on the other side? Will they look forward to the interaction or dread it?" You can be a zealous advocate and a professional who meets deadlines, is prepared, and treats everyone with respect and kindness. You will love your work.



Julie A. Deford

DeFord Law

Nampa

THIRD DISTRICT

Ideals

I appreciate the ability of any attorney who can disagree without being disagreeable. Professional attributes in attorneys I find most important are civility, candor and the ability to discuss a case without hostility.

Inspirations

I try to fall back on the adage, "treat others the way you want to be treated." I have been demeaned, belittled, yelled at, called names and ignored by opposing counsel. When other attorneys act this way it is a reflection on them, not me. So I try to be respectful to everyone. I also had great mentors. At my first firm, Greg Meacham and Karl Decker were perfect examples of attorneys who practiced with integrity and civility. My second employer, David Kerrick, was a great example of an attorney who treats all parties and opposing counsel with respect.

Friendly Advice to New Attorneys

You have to make the practice of law satisfying by developing trusting relationships with clients, staff, opposing counsel, the judges and court staff.

*Civility costs nothing
and buys everything.*

- MARY WORTLEY MONTAGUE



Timothy C. Walton

Chasan & Walton

Boise

FOURTH DISTRICT

Ideals

We have a rare combination of ability and collegiality, which allows us to practice law at a very high level in Idaho. I find the level at which law is practiced in Idaho to be equal to or superior to the level of practice in many suburban areas we've had experience with around the USA, from NY to CA, WA to AZ. When good lawyers are involved there is no obstructionism. There is only a search for the truth. We are very fortunate indeed to have a bar with such high standards.

Inspirations

My parents instilled a love of education and a New England work ethic. I wanted to go to school in Idaho where the skiing was great. I drove 2,500 miles across the USA in my VW bug and arrived in Moscow to begin my career as a ski bum. My heart sank when I pulled into Moscow. There wasn't a decent ski hill for 150 miles. Researching skiing near Moscow before deciding on attending school there never occurred to me...

After that ignominious start, I knew I had to practice law at the highest level I could. Last, I had amazing mentors: people like Jerry Quane (perhaps the best trial lawyer I've ever seen), my law partner Andy Chasan and others like Ken Pedersen.

Friendly Advice to New Attorneys

Spend three years clerking for a court, or in private practice in an established firm. Learn the nuts and bolts of being a good lawyer. Then find a partner and hang out a shingle. Partners are good. They make you think critically, evaluate realistically and act responsibly.

Find an area of the law you love. Become an expert in that area. If you earn \$100,000/year, live on a \$50,000 budget and invest the rest. If you earn \$250,000/year, live on a \$125,000 budget and invest the rest. Equity is good. Debt is bad.

Lastly, quality over quantity. Having one or two good cases is far better than 60 dogs. North Idaho attorney Ken Howard said once at a CLE course, "If you are walking by your filing cabinets and you hear a bunch of dogs barking, open the drawers and let them out."

PROFESSIONALISM AWARDS



Neil D. McFeeley

Erberle, Berlin, Kading, Turnbow & McKlveen

Boise

FOURTH DISTRICT



William T. Goodman

Goodman Law Office

Rupert

FIFTH DISTRICT

Ideals

Integrity, courtesy, diligence and common sense.

Inspirations

I saw and admired the professors in graduate school and law school who treated students with courtesy. I had the privilege of clerking for Ninth Circuit Judge Robert Boochever who treated everyone with respect. I had the example of several attorneys at Eberle Berlin, including Dick Kading, Warren Jones, Jim Davis, Brad Andrews and Newal Squyres, who earned the trust of both their clients and their adversaries. I have litigated against some of the best lawyers in the state, including Tom High, Dick Fields, Keith Hutchinson, Jack Gjording, Taylor Mossman and Reed Larsen, whose word you could always trust.

Friendly Advice to New Attorneys

Treat others as you expect to be treated. Remember that you are a member of a learned profession and have the responsibilities as well as the privileges that come with that. Tell your clients, your opponents and the court the truth. Put effort into your family, not just your job.

Ideals

Respect for and considerate of all. Oral agreements are always honored.

Inspirations

My long association with my original law partner, Judge Sherman J. Bellwood, as well as other partners in my law practice.

Friendly Advice to New Attorneys

Doing what I said above as well as maintaining information to clients and promptly returning phone calls.



Professionalism is not a label you give yourself - it's a description you hope others will apply to you.

- DAVID MAISTER





Howard D. Burnett
Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley
Pocatello
SIXTH DISTRICT

Ideals

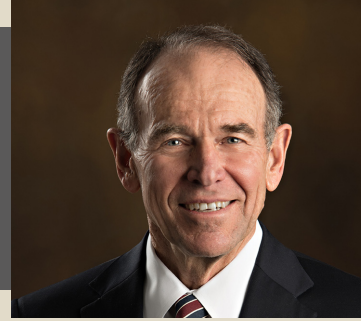
Throughout my nearly 40-year career, the lawyers who have earned my greatest admiration are those who demonstrably and consistently dedicate themselves to achieving a just and fair result – whether in transactional negotiations, in litigation proceedings, or in any other context – without bombast, pretense or sharp practices, but instead with conscientious preparation and respectful, principled advocacy. That kind of approach not only serves the best interests of clients, but simultaneously fulfills the highest aspirations of our professional calling.

Inspirations

The roots of my practice style undoubtedly can be traced in no small part to early childhood lessons I received from my late parents, Donald and Doris Burnett, and from my older brother, Don Jr., concerning the importance of fairness, respect and civility in dealing with others. Before I went to law school, the four years I spent as a member of a collegiate rowing team instilled in me an abiding understanding that genuine success inevitably requires collaboration. In our legal profession, individual preparation and performance are essential starting points, but all of us – judges, court personnel, lawyers, paralegals, staff members – ultimately have to be pulling in the same direction if we are to ensure a sustained victory for the rule of law in a democracy.

Friendly Advice to New Attorneys

Work hard; don't compromise principle for the sake of a perceived short-term advantage; be respectful to all with whom you come in contact in the course of your legal career; and, by all means, be sure to make the time amidst the imperatives of your professional life to enjoy family, friends, recreational pursuits and the satisfaction of providing volunteer service to your community.



Gregory P. Meacham
Nelson Hall Parry Tucker
Idaho Falls
SEVENTH DISTRICT

Ideals

Among the most important professional attributes for lawyers are a commitment to excellence and desire to get things right while respecting the legal system and those who try to implement it.

Inspirations

The belief that all people are equally beloved of God creates in me an aspiration to treat others as I desire to be treated. Recognizing that getting upset decreased my brain function at least 50 percent and being somewhat deficient in the first place required always staying calm just to have an even chance for my clients.

Friendly Advice to New Attorneys

Choosing to become a lawyer is to choose a profession in which duty to client and the profession comes before your own needs. One must find ways to limit the inflow to prevent demands from becoming excessive. Also find healthy ways to step away from the demands of the pressure. It's a great and an honorable profession, but don't let it be the only satisfaction in your life.

We are what we repeatedly do.

- ARISTOTLE

DENISE O'DONNELL DAY

FIRST DISTRICT



Pamela B. Massey
Callahan & Associates
Coeur d'Alene

Pamela Massey spent significant time establishing legal guardianship between a mother and her developmentally disabled adult daughter. The daughter had congenital heart failure and was hospitalized a great deal throughout her life. As a young adult now, her need for extensive medical attention paired with her inability to make decisions required that her mother become her guardian.

“My background is in social work and prior to attending law school, I worked in nursing homes, home health agencies and an acute care hospital. Helping families access resources, whether it was with a short term transportation need or a long term housing and care situation, was a great pre-cursor to assisting families in crisis as they access the legal system.”

SECOND DISTRICT



James E. Johnson
Jay Johnson Law Office
Moscow

James “Jay” Johnson was nominated for his service of over 130 hours representing a client who was developmentally delayed, in a civil suit. His client was judgment-proof, but still needed his other interests protected and the process was very lengthy. When asked what he would tell an attorney who is considering pro bono work, Johnson replied:

*“Who else is going to help this person?
[It is] time to give back a little.”*



Karin R. Seubert
Jones, Brower & Callery
Lewiston

Karin Seubert gave more than 100 hours to represent a mother petitioning for guardianship of her 18-year-old son with severe medical needs. When asked, “What inspires you to do pro bono work and what would you tell others considering the work?” Seubert replied:

“My practice has included pro bono clients from my earliest days as a lawyer. It has never been a question of whether to do pro bono work, just how to balance it responsibly with the demands of private practice. There is a great and varied need for pro bono work. That need includes opportunities for lawyers that are not litigators or whose practice areas do not include family law. For those willing to stretch and take a case outside of their practice area, your colleagues are more than willing to help and support you.”

PRO BONO AWARDS

THIRD DISTRICT

John Anderson is truly a super volunteer. In addition to volunteering at several community legal clinics, he provided more than 75 hours of pro bono legal assistance to three different clients in their civil legal matters.

“First and foremost, the law is a calling to serve by helping others. Each person helped is an inspiration to help the next person. In my mid-forties, it occurred to me that working 50-60 hours a week handling claims was not a service to others and did not allow much time after work to help others. Law seemed a good fit for me, and the University of Idaho College of Law strongly encourages pro-bono work that solidified my desire to help others.”



John A. Anderson Jr.
Hammond Law Office
Caldwell

Debra Eismann donated over 25 hours to help an unwed teenage mom and her grandmother establish custody of her daughter. Eismann was glad to help the client and said she could only imagine how hard it is to be in her shoes. She said:

“I believe every attorney should give back to the community and I would encourage every attorney to do so. There really wasn't anything too remarkable or out of the ordinary about the case. I work hard for each of my clients and I treated my pro bono client no differently. I did my best and believe that the client got a good result and was happy with the outcome.”

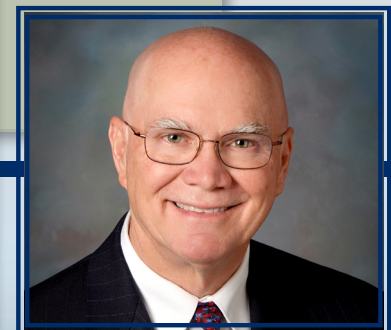


Debra Eismann
Eismann Law Offices
Nampa

FOURTH DISTRICT

Christ Troupis assisted a client in immigration matters and provided 150 hours of pro bono work. When asked what inspires him to continue providing pro bono aid, he stated:

“For 40 years, I have always provided free services as part of my practice. It has never cost me a good living and I have the deep satisfaction of remembering how many people I have helped who had no one else to turn to in their time of need. You are going to have successes in your career and probably make a lot of money. But that won't give you lasting joy. At the end of your career, when you look back on 40 or more years in practice, your greatest sense of accomplishment will come from what you did with no expectation of personal gain - from giving your talent and time to someone who looked to you as their last resort, who needed you because no one else would take up their defense. You will have done something special - something that made your life truly matter.”



Christ T. Troupis
Troupis Law Office
Boise

DENISE O'DONNELL DAY

FOURTH DISTRICT



Brooke O'Neil
Law Alternatives
Boise

Brooke O'Neil donated over 130 hours of pro bono assistance to a grandmother who was seeking guardianship of her two young grandchildren due to the mother's incarceration.

“There is a gap between those who can afford services and those who cannot. For those who truly need services but cannot afford them, this helps to serve the public and fill that gap. Hopefully it will also help with the perception of the profession in the community in general. This is worthwhile and I encouraged a new attorney several years ago who wanted to gain some experience in family law to take on a case through the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program because of the mentoring aspect of the work.”



Penelope Shaner Gaffney
Penelope Gaffney Law
Boise

Penelope Gaffney worked with co-recipient Brooke O'Neil representing a grandmother in a minor guardianship case as well as a related custody proceeding. In addition to working directly with the client, Gaffney contributed her research, briefing and trial skills to the case.



Nathaniel Peterson
Nate Peterson Law
Boise

Nate Peterson has dedicated over 70 hours on three different Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program cases in the past year. In addition, he spent over 200 hours resolving matters left behind when a lead attorney at a firm passed away. Those clients, most of whom required assistance with criminal defense cases, could not afford to pay a second retainer to a new attorney. Peterson diligently defended the clients in plea negotiations, sentencing, administrative license suspension hearings and rider review hearings.

“I would tell an attorney that pro bono work is a civic obligation of each and every attorney; that it is a privilege and a pleasure to utilize our legal training to help the less fortunate; that pro bono work is our richest and most noble legacy; and that our profession needs more pro bono work if we wish to be held in high esteem by the public.”

PRO BONO AWARDS

FIFTH DISTRICT

Kurt Schwab is a mainstay at the Twin Falls Senior Center Legal Clinic. In 2015, he served clients at more than 10 legal clinics. Schwab enjoys interacting with seniors to learn about their lives and help them resolve their legal challenges.

“All people should be engaged in good causes to help others. Service, although difficult at times, should still be fun.”



Kurt H. Schwab

Canyon Law
Twin Falls

SIXTH DISTRICT



Douglas K. Merkley

Douglas K. Merkley, PA
Pocatello

Douglas Merkley donated 45 hours as an attorney volunteering through the Court Special Advocates program. He also enjoys mentoring new lawyers and those interested in law as well as providing free consultations to Idaho Legal Aid Services referrals.

“It is a duty for all of us to give back (in some measure) to our community populations both as professionals and humanitarians. It is important for all of us to help maintain the dignity of our profession in the eyes of the public which seems to be ever vigilant of any excuse for criticisms.”

SEVENTH DISTRICT



Michael J. Whyte

Thomsen Holman Wheeler
Idaho Falls

Michael Whyte provided pro bono assistance to a father seeking a custody modification when his former spouse was charged with injury to a child and he feared the visits were putting his daughter at harm.

Paul Curtis consistently volunteers with the Court Appointed Special Advocates Program to help represent children. Curtis shared these thoughts on pro bono work:

“The legal profession provides an avenue for the attorneys to make a living. However, some people desperately need legal services but can't afford them. In those instances we can help and make a difference in someone's life.”



Paul T. Curtis

Curtis & Porter
Idaho Falls

50-YEAR ATTORNEYS

Admitted in 1966

E. Don Copple
Boise

Don Copple went into law after working summers at his uncle's firm in Boise. He loved that every day was different and wanted to be a part of that. Copple attended the University of Idaho to receive his B.A. in 1964 and his J.D. in 1966. He has been in private practice with the firm Davison, Copple, Copple & Copple since 1966, where he practices in the areas of real estate, litigation and estate planning. He has been an instructor with the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association and served in the Idaho State Legislature from 1968 to 1974. He enjoys collector cars and spending time with his four children and three grandchildren.

Fredrick D. Decker
Twin Falls

Fredrick Decker received his J.D. from the University of Idaho. Decker always had a strong interest in history, politics and the legal system, and practicing law offered him opportunities to do more than work in the accounting profession. Decker cites his father, Francis T. Decker, as a great influence: "He was quiet, talented, loving and humble. I hope I showed him what a lawyer could accomplish with good moral and ethical guidance." Decker is very proud of his twenty years working with the Southern Idaho Learning Center (previously the Scottish Rite Learning Clinic) in Twin Falls where children with undiagnosed learning disabilities are diagnosed and treated.

He and his wife Neta have a son, Jay, two daughters, Ann and Teri, and eight healthy grandchildren.

Max A. Eiden, Jr.
Boise

An Idaho native whose family goes back to the 1862 Idaho Goldrush, Max Eiden thought the profession of law would be a real challenge for him while giving him the independence to make a good living. He completed his law degree at University of Idaho in the 3 and 3 program. Eiden cites Dale Clemens as a wonderful mentor who imparted to him that one of the most important things in law is your word and who stated, "the practice of law is a long and straight road without any turns so you must act ethically." Eiden is very proud to have supported his daughters and provided a college education for them. He and his family enjoys spending time at their cabin in McCall and he also spends quality time duck hunting, playing bridge and enjoying BSU games.

Jack S. Gjording
Boise

Jack Gjording went into the practice for the independence it offered. "I wanted a profession that would allow me to live and work in Idaho." Focusing on litigation and defense of civil cases, Gjording practices with his wife, Trudy Fouser, at the firm Gjording Fouser, PLLC. He cites Dale Clemons, Peter Boyd, Carl Burke and Trudy Fouser as the exceptional lawyers who were professionally inspirational to his career. He recommends that new attorneys "Give the practice a try. If you like it, stay in it and work hard." When not practicing he enjoys working out, traveling, playing golf and "just being involved."

Hon. Gary M. Haman
Coeur d'Alene

After graduating with a degree in chemical engineering, Judge Gary Haman originally worked for Boeing but it wasn't what he wanted to do for the rest of his life so he switched gears and attended law school. He was prosecuting attorney for Kootenai County for four terms (eight years) before going to the bench. He became a judge in 1980 and served a little over 20 years. Judge Haman and his wife Elizabeth have two sons and a daughter. Their son, Michael, is an attorney in Coeur d'Alene. Judge Haman enjoys gardening, lawn care, traveling and cruises!

Carl D. Hamilton
Nampa

A recipient of the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award in 2008, Carl Hamilton went to law school "because I did not know what I wanted to do and I thought that a law degree would be an advantage in business, politics, higher education and if all else failed, I could always practice law." In order to do so he overcame significant learning disabilities with extra effort. A graduate of the University of Idaho, when he's not practicing, he enjoys travel, golf, reading, the Shakespeare Festival and spending time with his wife, Lynell, their children and grandsons.

50-YEAR ATTORNEYS

Admitted in 1966

Bart W. Harwood
Nampa

After receiving a high score on his Business Law test during his third year of school at the University of Idaho, and a low score on another test, the message was clear to Bart Harwood that law school is where he should focus his attention. To this day he still cites his father as his greatest influence and asks himself, "What would Dad do?" Harwood recommends to young lawyers "working hard will make you happier." The practice of law runs in his family with his son Greg and brother Bob sharing in the profession. Harwood enjoys fishing, music, wood working, tennis and golf. He and his wife of 50+ years, Julie, have two children and seven grandchildren.

Hon. James C. Herndon
Idaho Falls

Judge James Herndon grew up in Salmon, Idaho where he graduated as valedictorian of Salmon High School in 1959. After receiving a degree in journalism, he attended the University of Idaho for his J.D. Judge Herndon took over his father's law practice and practiced in Salmon for twenty years. He served as Lemhi County Prosecuting Attorney from 1969 to 1973 and again from 1983 to 1985. He was elected to the bench in 1987. In 1991 Judge Herndon accepted the position of Administrative District Judge for the Seventh Judicial District, holding that post for 14 years after which he retired. He is a member of Shriners International and travels extensively with them. He and his late wife, Tommye, have five children and 15 grandchildren.

Dale G. Higer
Boise

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Dale Higer practices real estate law following in the footsteps of his father, C.H. Higer, who was an attorney in Emmett. "I liked what he did as an attorney and as a community leader." Higer cites Ted Eberle as a great influence who encouraged him to lead the challenge in the 1970 reapportionment of the Idaho Legislature to the U.S. Supreme Court. For the past 25 years, Higer has been a commissioner of the National Commission on Uniform State Laws, serving on its Executive Committee. He enjoys woodworking, skiing, reading history and sports. Higer and his wife, Ramona, have two daughters and two grandchildren. His daughter, Sarah, continues the family legacy in law practicing as corporate counsel for Idaho Power.

Rjay Lloyd
Scottsdale, AZ

Transactional law with emphasis in tax, business and estate planning has been the focus of Rjay Lloyd's practice after graduating from the University of Utah (J.D.) and New York University (LLM Tax). His biggest influence was his father, "who engrained in me a work ethic at an early age as well as a standard of honesty and fair dealing." Lloyd advises young attorneys to "be brave, work hard (even without pay), ask questions, get advice from fellow lawyers, be humble and know your limitations for growth." He enjoys golf, fishing and watching football and basketball. He and his wife of 57 years, Ann, raised five children and currently have 15 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Kenneth E. Lyon Jr.
Pocatello

A graduate of the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, Kenneth Lyon and his wife, Beverly, live in Pocatello. Lyon has been the recipient of the Pro Bono Award in 1996, 2000 and 2015. Since 1993, he has worked with the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program on over 51 pro bono cases. In 1998 he was the recipient of the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award and served on the Professional Conduct Board from 1998 until 2004. In the past, he has served as the President of the American Diabetes Association and generously donates time to many other community groups.

Craig L. Meadows
Boise

Craig Meadows was born and raised in American Falls. He has served as a Bar Commissioner and President as well as a board member of the Idaho Law Foundation. He received the Idaho State Bar Distinguished Lawyer Award in 2009 and the Professionalism Award in 2004. He cites his father as being the biggest influence on his life, "I grew up on a farm and he taught me the value of hard work and how to get along in life." Meadows has been with the firm Hawley Troxell for over 47 years. He enjoys photography and golf as well as spending much time on events for his grandchildren; he and his wife, Camille, have a total of 14.

50-YEAR ATTORNEYS

Admitted in 1966

Hon. Daniel B. Meehl
Twin Falls

Judge Daniel Meehl was talked into going to law school by his Stanford roommate; he had never given it much thought previously. He believes that empathy is a very important factor in the practice of law. Judge Meehl served as a Magistrate Judge beginning in 1971, became a District Judge in 1981 and by the time he retired in 2001 had served over 30 years on the bench. He recommends that young attorneys “find a firm to intern at during the summer to learn the nuts and bolts of the practice before diving in.” Judge Meehl served six years on the College of Southern Idaho Foundation Board, is involved in Optimist Club and supports various charities. Judge Meehl is involved in the Lawyers Assistance Program, plays tennis and is an avid Game of Thrones fan. His late wife, Maureen, was a Deputy Prosecuting attorney for Twin Falls. They have four children, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Hon. James C. Morfitt
Caldwell

Following law school, Judge James Morfitt served as a Judge Advocate on active duty with the United States Army for over four years. He was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for Canyon County beginning in January 1971, with the advent of court reform. He was elected Prosecuting Attorney for Canyon County in the fall of 1973 and served two, two-year terms ending in January 1978. Thereafter, he went into private practice in Caldwell with Dick Rosenberry, Herb Rettig and Greg Lovan, where he remained until being appointed as a Magistrate Judge for Canyon County in April 1989. Judge Morfitt served as magistrate until appointed as a District Judge for the Third Judicial District by Governor Phil Batt, beginning in January 1997. He retired as a District Judge in 2007 and has served as a Senior Judge ever since. He and his wife of 40 years, Jane, have two daughters and two grandchildren.

John S. Simko
Boise

John Simko entered into the practice of law in 1967 after leaving the Navy. His private practice focuses on corporate law, finance, securities litigation and mining. In 1974 he left private practice to serve as Senior Vice President and General Counsel of Sunshine Mining and Refining Company, working with them for over 17 years and becoming Chairman and Chief Executive Officer in 1991. After retiring from Sunshine Mining in 2002, Simko joined Moffatt Thomas where he currently practices. He enjoys playing golf in his spare time. Simko and his wife, Bethel, have a son, daughter and one grandchild.

Robert P. Tunncliff
Pullman, WA

Robert Tunncliff’s biggest career influence was Judge John Bengston who encouraged him to be a public defender while participating in private practice and gave him advice and direction. After graduating from the University of Idaho Tunncliff focused on criminal law. His greatest life influence was his mother who worked as a Deputy Clerk of Court during the day and typed court transcripts for his father in the evenings. Tunncliff served as the Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney and during his tenure as such, enjoyed the hobby of riding a bareback bucking horse in Homedale. He now enjoys golf and bridge. Robert and his wife, JoAnne, have three children and six grandchildren.

60-YEAR ATTORNEYS

Admitted in 1956

Hon. Robert E. Bakes
Eagle

Justice Robert Bakes served on the Idaho Supreme Court from 1971 until 1993, serving as Chief Justice from 1989 to 1993. After retirement he has practiced arbitration and mediation with the firm Moffatt Thomas. His biggest influence on his life was his mother for the guidance in moral and life values she provided. His advice to young attorneys is: "Do not cut corners with your clients." Justice Bakes enjoys his down time playing music and gardening. He and his wife, Lurleen, have four children, 15 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Hon. Charles F. McDevitt
Boise

Justice Charles McDevitt graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He recently retired from the firm of McDevitt & Miller. He always wanted to be a lawyer as his father was a lawyer and a great influence in his choice. Justice McDevitt practiced with a number of fine lawyers each of whom taught him and aided in his practice including T.H. Eberle, Ray Givens, Art Fredston in NY, Ken Pursley, Joe Miller and Byron Johnson. Justice McDevitt is proud to have been one of four defense counsel in Phase I of a trial in San Juan, Puerto Rico involving the Sheraton Hotel Fire of 1986 on New Year's Eve. It was the largest damage case filed in U.S. Court to date. He enjoys practicing law, raising alfalfa, beekeeping and spending time with friends and family. Justice McDevitt and his wife, Virginia, live in Boise and are proud to have seven children and nine grandchildren. Two of their children are lawyers carrying on the family legacy.

Dwain H. Stufflebeam
Blackfoot

Having graduated from law school at University of Montana, Dwain Stufflebeam began practicing real estate and corporate law. He chose law to aid him in taking over the family title insurance business. He cites his biggest influences as his mother and father who "instilled in me my goals and the drive to reach them." He is most proud of the accomplishment of building a title company with over 40 offices in three states and over 350 employees. Stufflebeam's advice to young attorneys is to "set your goals and map a course to accomplish them." He enjoys golf and he and his wife of 62 years, Joyce, have four children, 12 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

65-YEAR ATTORNEYS

Admitted in 1951

J. Charles Blanton

Boise

After two years in the Navy (1944-1946), Charles Blanton went into law school at the suggestion of a high school teacher for whom he had great respect. His biggest influence was his late wife of 62 years, Gladys. Having met in college, Blanton points to her help in developing his law practice and her devotion to raising their four children as his greatest support. He was also assisted by Blaine Evans when he asked Blanton to be his deputy in the Ada County Prosecutor's office. Blanton advises new attorneys to "work hard, be dedicated and honest in all transactions. Do not neglect family." He currently enjoys playing tennis twice a week, oil painting and reading. His family of four children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren are very important to him.

James W. Givens

Lewiston

James Givens followed in his father Ray's footsteps to become an attorney. Givens' son, Eric, stated "All he ever wanted to do was to be an attorney." Givens' father was a city attorney who served in the legislature and eventually sat on the Idaho Supreme Court. Givens loved being a trial attorney and accepted all kinds of cases. He loved helping people and practiced as a city attorney. Givens served in World War II and the Korean War as a pilot for the Army Air Corps and continued to fly after the military. He loves the outdoors and often took his three boys and one daughter camping, hunting and fishing. Givens served on the Board of Directors for the Lewiston Roundup Association and was involved with many service clubs. Sadly, he lost his wife Patricia this spring. Currently living in Eagle, Givens' son says "He is so extremely proud of what he [his father] did as an attorney."

Richard L. McFadden

St. Maries

Raised in Plummer, Idaho, Hon. Richard McFadden followed in his father's footsteps to continue the legacy of over 100 years of a McFadden practicing law in Benewah County. His son, Patrick, currently serves as a Senior Judge. After serving as a signalman in the Navy during World War II, McFadden worked closely with small town governments including St. Maries, Plummer, Harrison and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. He served as Benewah County Prosecuting and Public Defender from 1974 to 1985. He served as Magistrate Judge in Benewah County. In 1985 he returned to private practice with his son, Pat, and daughter in law, Cathleen. He received the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award in 1996 and the Distinguished Lawyer Award in 1997. Sadly, last year McFadden lost his wife of over 50 years, Katherine. They have five "great kids", three grandchildren and one great granddaughter. He now enjoys golfing, fishing, gardening and spending time with family at their cabin on Lake Chatcolet.

2016

RETIRING

JUDGES



Hon. Stephen L. Calhoun
Second Judicial District



Hon. Russell A. Comstock
Fourth Judicial District



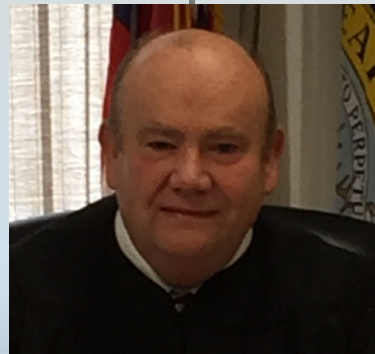
Hon. Fred M. Gibler
First Judicial District



Hon. Jim Jones
Idaho Supreme Court



Hon. George G. Hicks
Fourth Judicial District



Hon. Daniel J. McGee
First Judicial District

THE ADVOCATE AWARDS

Best Article

“HIPAA for Lawyers” by Brent T. Wilson

January 2016 issue

The article, “HIPAA for Lawyers – Taking Care with Patient Information” by Brent T. Wilson, is an excellent showcase of the author’s mastery with complicated material made easy to understand and useful to all attorneys.

The article posed a simple problem: how one should handle personal medical records that have come to play a role as either evidence or some other aspect of a case. Brent takes a practical approach and answers the question in layers, addressing various poorly understood aspects of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as well as the consequences of different decisions.

Brent has written for *The Advocate* previously and served on The Advocate Editorial Advisory Board from 2008-14. He is a graduate of Willamette University College of Law and is active in both the Business and Corporate Law and Health Law Sections.

Best Cover Photo

Moose by Sharon Cuslidge

November / December 2015 issue

The winning cover photo, also featured throughout this program, was taken by Sharon Cuslidge, when she captured a special moment of surprise during an afternoon walk. The photographer gave this account:

“I am a legal secretary at Givens Pursley and our office manager suggested that I submit the attached photo to you for *The Advocate*. I took the photo on Saturday, September 19, at Silver Creek Preserve. My husband and I were walking down the trail when we heard a snuffly/snorty sound and rustling foliage. A moment later, a moose emerged from the trees and headed across the creek. He was followed by the three moose you see in the photo. I wasn’t using a telephoto when I shot the picture, so we were pretty darn close!”

We appreciate all the photos that we receive. But we are especially grateful to Sharon for seizing this moment!

Appellate Practice Section

August 2015 issue

Best Issue Sponsor

When the Appellate Practice Section began its activities in 2014, one of the first things the Section Officers did was sign up to sponsor an issue of *The Advocate*. Their work included some remarkably practical direction, as well as some thoughtful philosophy behind how the appellate world works.

The Advocate Editorial Advisory Board members stated that they liked the fact that the Section organized their articles to lead logically from one to the other. Christine M. Salmi first presented the critical decision any trial attorney on the losing side must consider: "To Appeal or Not to Appeal?" Her article integrated little-known procedural concerns as well as practical concerns over the substantive issues involved. Christopher Pooser then wrote about the benefits of consulting an experienced appellate attorney. Syrena Hargrove wrote about what to bring to an appellate oral argument, and authors Stephen Adams and Brian Dickson wrote about "Preserving Issues for Appeal: Leaving Breadcrumbs for the Way Home."

Finally, the team put forward excerpts from the Idaho Appellate Handbook, which gave both fine detail based on rules as well as basic orientation. While good articles might be common in *The Advocate*, such a complete, sweeping and relevant package of articles is rare.

Thank you to all who took the time to submit an award nomination.

If you are interested in nominating someone for an award in the future,
please email or send your nomination in writing to:

Idaho State Bar
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Boise, ID 83701-0895

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