

# IDAHO

*Access to Justice Campaign*  
...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

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September 29, 2014

RECEIVED  
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HOLLAND & HART

Business and Corporate Law Section  
Attn: Brian Hansen  
Section Chairperson  
Holland & Hart  
PO Box 2527  
Boise, ID 83701

**RE: Access to Justice Idaho Campaign 2014**

Dear Mr. Hansen:

I am writing to you as chair of the Idaho State Bar's Business and Corporate Law Section to request that the Section consider making a donation to the Access to Justice Idaho Campaign. I know the Section gets requests for money, from many good organizations, but please consider this essential \$300,000 campaign.

In March 2013, DisAbility Rights Idaho, Idaho Legal Aid Services, and the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program – Idaho's primary providers of civil legal services to the poor – began a study to determine the feasibility of a combined fundraising campaign to support legal services to Idahoans living in poverty and/or with disabilities. Based on the favorable results of the feasibility study, the statewide Access to Justice Idaho campaign was launched in December of 2013.

The goal of the Access to Justice Idaho campaign is to provide critical legal services by raising funds from Idaho attorneys and others who understand the essential role of our judicial system in the lives of so many. The beneficiaries of the campaign will be the low income women, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable Idahoans who would otherwise have no access to legal help. Campaign contributions will secure their representation in domestic violence custody and divorce cases, guardianships for developmentally or incapacitated adults and abused/neglected children, foreclosure prevention, protection of seniors who have been financially exploited and other critical legal needs.

Providing legal services to low income Idahoans is good for Idaho business. Enabling Idahoans to access the judicial system provides legitimacy to that system, allows them to resolve their legal programs and in turn creates a more stable environment for Idaho businesses to operate.

Brian Hansen  
September 29, 2014  
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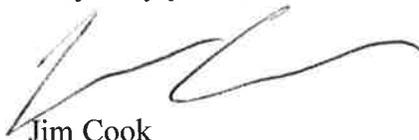
Some of the Idahoans served with Business & Corporate Law Section funds may be business owners now or in the future. My firm has represented numerous family farmers and other small business owners who have experienced adversity but who intend to continue their businesses. I recall representing an immigrant who was a victim of domestic violence who started a business selling foods from her native country. She needed help only at a particularly difficult time due to the violence of her husband.

The Access to Justice Idaho Campaign has had a successful launch, with the legal community contributing approximately \$200,000 of its \$300,000 2014 goal. A number of Bar sections including the Environment and Natural Resources, Family, Litigation, Professionalism & Ethics, Real Property and Young Lawyers Sections have already donated to the Campaign. This includes a \$9,000 donation from the Litigation Section.

Money pledged by October 31 and payable by March 15 is considered in this year's campaign. I ask that you please consider donating to this important cause and keeping it in your charitable donations considerations in the future. If it would be helpful I would enjoy coming to a Section meeting to discuss the Access to Justice Idaho Campaign.

Enclosed is some information about the activities of the member agencies and their services. Please let me know if there is any additional information you would like to consider this request.

Very truly yours,



Jim Cook  
Executive Director  
Idaho Legal Aid Services

encl: Brochure  
FAQ



## FAQ SHEET

### ***What is Access to Justice Idaho?***

A statewide fundraising campaign that will facilitate civil legal services for poor and vulnerable Idahoans by raising funds for Idaho's principal low income service providers: Idaho Legal Aid Services, the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, and DisAbility Rights Idaho.

### ***Why is the Campaign Needed?***

More than 225,000 Idahoans live in poverty. Most are effectively shut out of the civil justice system. Even as the number of impoverished Idahoans has grown, the funding for the organizations that serve them has declined. Each of these organizations has been impacted by cuts in Federal grants as well as a 2/3 cut in grants from the Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA). The Access to Justice Idaho campaign was created so more of these Idahoans can be served.

### ***What Are the Campaign's Goals?***

The Access to Justice Idaho Campaign goal is to raise \$300,000 in its inaugural year to provide legal services to low income Idahoans. To date, the Campaign has raised almost \$160,000. We are asking attorneys, judges and everyone interested in improving access to justice in Idaho to help us continue that momentum and reach our goal by the end of the campaign, October 1, 2014.

### ***What Will Campaign Funds Do?***

The following are specific examples of programs and activities that Access to Justice contributions will help fund in the coming year, although not all-inclusive, this list gives you an idea of the important work that will be done with contributions.

**Idaho Legal Aid Services** will use Campaign funds to represent low income persons in need of guardianships for incapacitated adults. Idaho Legal Aid Services is often contacted by a spouse or adult child who is trying to help a family member who is incapacitated due to advanced cognitive decline. These callers typically are trying to get a family member onto Medicaid to cover nursing home costs or want to assist with medical, housing, or financial matters, but are at an impasse because the senior is unable to sign paperwork and family members lack the legal authority to act. There are currently very limited community resources for providing attorneys to low income persons in these types of guardianship cases, which has left families with very few options. Idaho Legal Aid Services' historic funding for this representation is no longer available for that purpose.

Idaho Legal Aid Services will also use Campaign funds to represent domestic violence and sexual assault victims in divorce cases. In recent years, many federal grants have stopped allowing funds to be used in divorces. This has left many domestic violence victims, often with children, to navigate the divorce process, unrepresented, against a violent and abusive spouse. Many find the process too difficult and do not get the legal remedies they desperately need.

**DisAbility Rights Idaho** will use the Access to Justice Idaho funds to obtain access to health care and in home assistance for people with disabilities in order to prevent institutionalization or to help them move out of institutions and live in the community. Disability Rights Idaho will also use the funds to assist people with mental illness to gain access to mental health treatment, and community supports to avoid hospitalization and involvement with the criminal justice system. Funds will also be used to represent people with disabilities to

contest guardianships when the guardian is abusive, neglectful or when guardianship is inappropriate. The funds will also be available to supplement our efforts to address issues of abuse and neglect in nursing homes and other facilities for people with disabilities.

**Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program (IVLP)** will use Access to Justice funds to supplement the services offered by Idaho Legal Aid Services in the family law area to assist victims of domestic violence in custody and custody modification cases, as well as in divorce proceedings. Also IVLP will use Campaign funds to represent parents seeking protection orders or custody arrangements to protect children where there is documented abuse or neglect. Since IVLP's funding for cases of family violence are limited to situations where there is an adult victim, these funds will help fill a critical gap in the civil legal services available to create safety and stability for Idaho families.

IVLP will also use Campaign funds to provide representation for petitioners and protected persons in guardianships of all kinds. For example, funds from this Campaign will enable IVLP to recruit competent counsel for petitioning parent(s) and for their developmentally disabled child who has reached the age of majority. IVLP volunteers will assist the parent in gaining the legal means to continue to care and advocate for their child and assure the adult child's rights are protected in the guardianship process.

Often the civil legal needs of low income people do not fall into neat categories favored by traditional funding sources. With Access to Justice funds IVLP will continue to match volunteer attorneys with low income Idahoans who have diverse legal needs. Examples include those who have been victims of fraudulent contracts, are being illegally evicted, or need to obtain a certificate of live birth when no birth certificate was created.

The Idaho Trial Lawyers Association operates a Street Law Clinic that provides on-the-spot legal advice to walk-in clients. The clinic is staffed by law students and volunteer supervising attorneys. The clinic fills a critical legal need in our community by providing free legal advice to those who desperately need it, on a variety of legal issues. Donations to Access to Justice Idaho help support the clinic by enabling IVLP to provide malpractice coverage to volunteer attorneys as well as assisting in recruiting attorneys for the clinic.

Idaho Trial Lawyers Association



#### ***How Do I Donate?***

You can donate by visiting <http://www.razoo.com/story/Access-To-Justice-Idaho> or by mailing checks to Access to Justice Idaho c/o Idaho Law Foundation PO Box 895 Boise, ID 83701. Donations are tax deductible.

#### ***How Can I Get Involved?***

If you are interested in getting involved by: becoming a Leadership Committee member for our 2015 fundraising cycle, holding a fundraising event for Access to Justice Idaho, or otherwise volunteering your time or talents, please contact Sunrise Ayers at [sunriseayers@idaholegalaid.org](mailto:sunriseayers@idaholegalaid.org) or 208-345-0106.



September 8, 2014

Brian Hansen  
Chairperson, ISB Business & Corporate Law Section

Re: Love the Law! Contribution Request

Dear Business & Corporate Law Section Chair Hansen,

The Diversity Section would like to thank the Business & Corporate Law Section for its past support of the Love the Law! outreach program and invite your continued support as Love the Law! continues to grow and expand. Any financial contribution that your section can make would be greatly appreciated. As explained below, we are in special need of funding for our new scholarship program.

Love the Law! seeks to develop and maintain a pipeline program that exposes Idaho high school, college, and university students from diverse, minority, and low-income backgrounds and underrepresented populations to the legal profession and encourages those students to consider pursuing a career in law. In order to achieve our mission, Love the Law! organizes several events each school year that focus on different aspects of the law. For example, last fall, Love the Law! students observed sentencings in front of Judge Wilper and heard presentations from various Ada County employees, including a prosecuting attorney, public defender, sheriff's deputy, and court interpreter. Students in Kootenai, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties participated in similar events. In the spring, students in southern Idaho participated in a half-day courtroom skills course at Concordia University, and students in northern Idaho observed Idaho Supreme Court oral arguments in Lewiston.

Beginning in the summer of 2015, Love the Law! will begin offering scholarships to assist Idaho students of diverse backgrounds who aspire to attend law school. The number and amount of the scholarships that we will be able to offer will be directly determined by the success of our fundraising efforts and the support of our sponsors. Ideally, Love the Law! would like to offer several \$1,000 scholarships. Each scholarship would cover the cost of an LSAT study course, the LSAT test fee, and application fees to an Idaho law school. Our hope is to remove the financial barrier of applying to law school in order to encourage students of diverse backgrounds to pursue a legal education.

In order to provide you with more background and insight into our program, I have attached our most recent Event Summary covering our "Courtroom Skills at Concordia" event, in which we had 61 students participate. I have also attached a copy of an ad that Love the Law! ran in the August 2014 issue of *The Advocate* thanking our sponsors, including the Business & Corporate Law Section.

Upon any additional contribution to Love the Law!, the Business & Corporate Law Section will continue to be recognized at each of our 2014-2015 events. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at (208) 883-2246 or [jgomez@latah.id.us](mailto:jgomez@latah.id.us).

Sincerely,

Jana B. Gómez

Jana B. Gómez,  
Chair, Love the Law! Committee



**LOVE THE LAW!**

A pipeline program of the ISB Diversity Section that exposes Idaho students from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented populations to the legal profession and encourages those students to consider pursuing a career in law. We promote diversity, equality, and cultural understanding throughout the Idaho State Bar to better serve the State's diverse citizenry.

*Thank you for your support!*

University of Idaho

College of Law



CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF LAW



A Professional  
Law Corporation

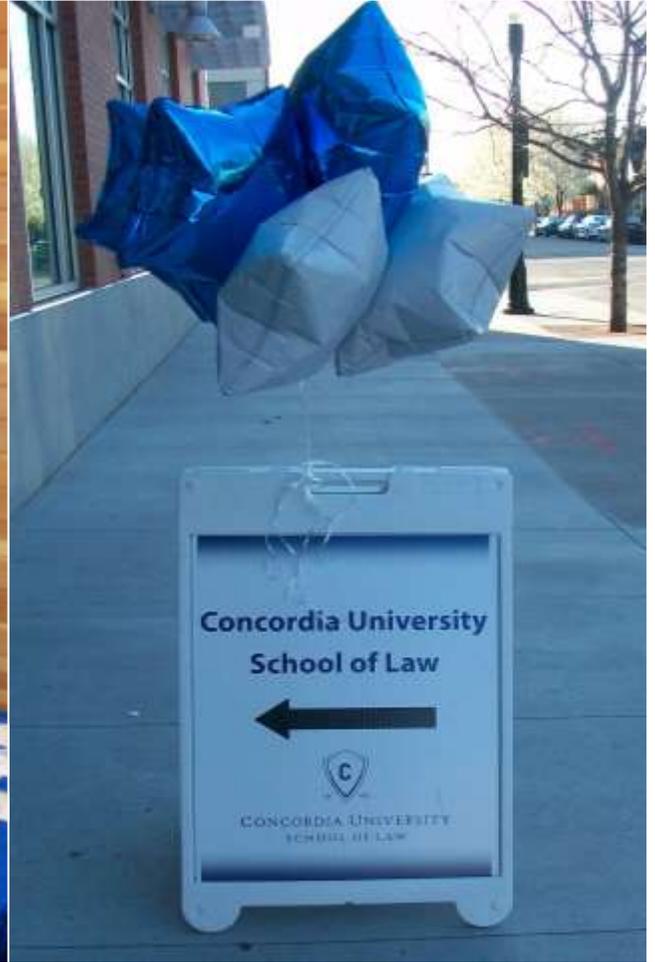
**DiscoverLaw.org**<sup>TM</sup>  
A commitment to diversity in law





## COURTROOM SKILLS AT CONCORDIA

April 7, 2014









## EVENT SUMMARY

**Event Title:** Courtroom Skills at Concordia

**Date & Time:** April 7, 2014, 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., MST

**Location:** Concordia School of Law, Boise, Idaho

**Number of Students:** 61

**Participating Schools:** Borah High School, Capital High School, Kuna High School, Marian Pritchett School, Middleton High School, Mountain View High School, Parkview, Renaissance Rocky Mountain High, Timberline High School, and Vallivue High School.

### Summary of Events:

For its Spring 2014 event, Love the Law! hosted a “Courtroom Skills” program at the Concordia School of Law in downtown Boise. The goal was to provide participants (all High School students) with an opportunity to learn some courtroom skills and then practice them in a mock trial setting.

This event began with a welcome by Love the Law! committee Co-Chairperson, Lucy Juarez and Dean Cathy Silak of the Concordia School of Law. The students were then given an overview courtroom skills presentation by Shayne Nope, a 3L student at the University of Idaho law school. After this presentation the students were split into smaller groups wherein they were guided by volunteer attorneys and law students through a mock trial scenario. The participants prepared direct examinations and cross examinations. Then the groups were reunited into one room again where the mock trial took place with Dean Silak serving as the presiding Judge. Participants were then given the opportunity to practice their direct and cross examinations during this mock trial portion of the event.

A judiciary panel with special guests Judge Sergio Gutierrez of the Idaho Court of Appeals and Judge Jayme B. Sullivan, Canyon County Magistrate Judge, took place after the mock trial. Both Judges spoke openly about their unique paths to the bench. The Judges described their job duties, shared their stories regarding personal struggle and addressed the importance of diversity on the bench and in the legal field in general. The participants were also given the unique opportunity of interacting with the Judges during the question and answer portion of the panel.

The participants were then provided a lunch and given the opportunity to speak with Love the Law! Committee members, who each work in the legal field in various capacities.

After lunch the participants were treated to a Law Student panel with law students from both the Concordia School of Law and the University Of Idaho School Of Law. The law student panel members spoke about their various paths to law school. Most of the students on the panel had arrived at law school via a non-traditional path. The law students provided unique and entertaining perspectives about everything from taking the LSAT to balancing life and law school and their plans after school. Love the Law! participants were able to ask the law students any questions they had which resulted in a lively and informative discussion.

**Student Profiles:** (Note: Not all students completed)

- Male: 23
- Female: 28

- African American: 4
- Asian: 6
- Latino/Hispanic: 7
- Mixed Race: 6
- Caucasian: 30

- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade: 2
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade: 12
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: 7
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade: 17

**Costs Associated with Event:**

Love the Law! funds were used to pay for the following expenses:

Expense	Amount
Costco	\$46.88
Veggie Trays	\$131.31
Domino's Pizza	\$168.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$346.69</b>

Additionally, Parsons, Behle and Latimer provided folders in which to place handouts. The students received Love the Law! tumblers for participating in the program which had been purchased in conjunction with a previous Love the Law! event. Also, Concordia donated the rooms and space at the law school and the presenters also donated their time and experience.

**Student Feedback:** Please see attached document.



## EVENT EVALUATION

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Event Name: Courtroom Skills at Concordia

Event Date: April 7, 2014

Event Location: Concordia School of Law

Please tell us what you liked **best** about this event:

- The mock trial
- The people involved
- Just talking to everyone
- I really enjoyed getting to hear the judges and the mock trial
- I enjoyed all the students and office holders that talked
- I liked being able to talk to the law students about this profession
- The mock trial
- Having more time to ask questions. Great pizza!
- Being able to ask each judge questions
- I liked the mock trial and getting an idea of how real trials are run.
- I enjoyed that we got to have a mock trial and that we got to ask questions
- Everything!
- The mock trial
- Getting to have a practice court and talking to the law students
- Hearing the judges and their experience in judging
- That there was a Latino judge talking about his past
- Most is about the crime part, the judge
- I liked how we could participate by asking questions and doing a mock trial
- I thought the mock trial was exciting
- I liked best is about crime and judges. How they become?
- I really liked the judges panel when they took their time by providing their background information
- I enjoyed hearing the judges and students talk and the mock trial was fun
- I liked the food and the students who were talking about their law school lives
- I liked how we were involved in the mock trial
- It cleared up a lot of confusion that I had before I came here

- I liked when Judges give us the answers to our questions. I got many experiences from their explanations.
- I liked getting lawyers and law students perspective and also seeing what a trial was like
- That at the beginning they had a case and let us mess with that
- Being able to ask questions to the judges
- I liked watching the mock trial and witness cross examination
- The mocking trial, that was fun. Also being to ask questions to the law students.
- Learning more about getting into law. How rewarding being in law is. Mock trial.
- I like the student panel and also I think everything is good.
- I like best about how the judges handle and career
- When we did the mock trial learned a lot and loved the feeling to be a lawyer
- I really enjoyed the mock trial
- The Judges panel
- The mock trial activity
- I got to see a judge that helped change my life
- I liked that everyone was friendly rather than serious the whole time
- I like having the ability to ask questions
- I really liked the Judge/Law student panel. It was really great to see all aspects of law
- The mock trial was extremely fun and panels are always educational
- I very much enjoyed the mock trial
- Getting the opportunity to kinda experience what a trial is like
- I liked that we could ask questions about the legal field and learn about the fields that are there.

Please tell us what you liked **least** about this event:

- Too many people in the mock trial room
- Sitting and listening the whole time
- None
- Length/timing; if people aren't asking questions, move on; maybe give a list of questions to help start brainstorming on the topic
- The length
- The judge's panel went on a long time
- It needs more attendees
- I didn't like how big the groups were. I think it made it harder to learn with such large groups.
- Nothing
- How rushed everything is. Maybe go til 2pm not 1pm.
- The judge's panel
- Sitting in the same room for an extended period of time
- Judge's panel
- Lunch was kind of short
- skills session
- mock trial was not so interesting, not put together well
- plaintiff/defendant
- There was too much time for the Q&A

- It was the debating and examining the case of Harbour v. Newton
- Nothing, everything was great
- Nothing, it was great!
- They didn't have enough activities for students
- I liked when we went in groups (Plaintiff, Defendant was really fun)
- Lunch was only 20 minutes?!
- A lot of sitting at the beginning and a lot of talking
- Time budgeting
- Research for the mock trial
- The judges panel because I really wasn't interested in panel
- Nada, everything was very good
- How little time was available for the mock trial
- The amount of time judges answered questions
- Sitting in the same room too long
- Too much listening rather than doing/participating
- What I least liked about this was that instead of having time for having on or two judges maybe have a wide variety
- Wish that there had been more time and structure during the mock trial to help give us a better understanding
- Everything was good!
- Not a lot of "hands on experience." Too long just sitting and listening.
- What I liked least was the time. It seemed a little short and rushed.

How can we improve this event?

- Microphones for the judges so it's louder
- Come up with some activities that involve more participation
- More break down description for the general program of law
- More time for the trial
- Have groups be split in smaller sizes creating a better learning system.
- It was amazing
- Try separating everyone in groups and give everyone a chance to have 1 on 1 with a lawyer or judge or law student, because the time you give us to do it at our own good will we're shy. Maybe let us sit in on a class if possible or have a teacher come and teach what he would to a 1L on their first day.
- More hands on
- Give a tour of the school
- You did great
- Lengthen the lunch, besides that nothing else
- Break into smaller groups for the mock trial and have a small cross-ex p direct examinations. We should talk to practicing attorneys
- Make the mock trials longer
- Make more time for a more in-depth prepared mock trial
- You would improve this event, maybe by providing a summertime quiz to students and participants so as to nail the unforgettable memories or reminder
- Make lunch a little longer. It was great though. I appreciated the law students

- By doing a lot more hands on things and be a bit more active
- More preparation before the mock trial
- More mock trials & turns, get more familiar with that setting
- I think make that more fun and also talk with students
- Maybe putting more of a lawyer feel like have every kid ask a question
- Send out the depositions before the event so all can already be up to date on the case
- Have more interaction, not just sitting
- I think we should do some more hands on
- More activities
- To improve this event you could make it longer but express the law a little more like helping people understand better.
- During the mock trial I wish things were better explained such to what else we were doing
- Little bit more instruction in mock trial and connecting it to actual trial hearings
- I would suggest a little more time to prepare for the mock trial
- More “hands on” activities
- Time could be improved and more interactions with the kids attending

#### Ideas for other Love the Law! events:

- Less people in the mock trial/split us up more
- Work closer with law students not just panel discussion
- Actual trial, activities for certain professions
- Being able to watch a trial
- Mock trials and working hands on with law students or lawyers
- See a real trial
- More experience in any type of setting court, trials
- Have a mock trial competition
- Going into more of all types of laws such as civil v. criminal, branches off of such as divorce law, agricultural law, environmental law, etc. Just to give us options with a law degree.
- Mock trial, more interactive events

#### Other Comments:

- It was fun
- This was my 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> time coming and every time it has been different and better. Good job!
- Thanks
- Awesome, can't wait for the next one
- Thank you for taking the time to do this for us students
- This is a great event
- Thank you so much for the great event. I'm am studying the Judicial Branch in my classes and this was a wonderful event to witness the truth and reality about how the judicial branch works from the supreme courts to the state courts. So I say thank you so much.
- Good lunch

- I thought the law students were very interesting and likeable
- Talk more about the LSATs
- Had lots of fun thanks
- Thanks, keep doing what you do!
- You guys are great! Thank you for throwing events together and doing such a good job!
- Thanks so much!
- This was a great experience