



Winter 2016 LTL! Northern Idaho Event

December 12, 2016

EVENT SUMMARY

Event Title: Kootenai County Courthouse Tour and Court Observation

Date & Time: December 12, 2016 8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Location: 324 Garden Ave., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83816

Number of Students: 24 students and 1 chaperone were signed up to attend the event.

Participating Schools: Lakeland HS, Rathdrum, Idaho

Summary of Events: I met the Bailiff, Derrick, at the Courthouse at 7:45am. The participants from Lakeland HS arrived a little after the scheduled start time of 8:00am; 24 students and one teacher chaperone.

Derrick and I (Kinzo) gave the students and teacher a tour of the “old” Kootenai County Courthouse and did a question/answer session with the students in Courtroom 1. The students were also given a tour of the holding cells used to house criminal defendants prior to, and after their court appearances. We then gave the students a tour of the “new” Kootenai County Courthouse and did another question/answer session in Courtroom 10. The “new” courthouse tour included taking the students to where they would report for jury duty (when they turned 18), where they would pay parking/speeding tickets, and where the filing office was, and where the law library was. In courtroom 10, we were joined by another unidentified Bailiff and Hon. Lansing Haynes, District Judge.

The question/answer sessions focused on our respective paths to our current careers. It also included student questions relating to the cases we worked and observed. Judge Haynes gave the students a quick overview of the Idaho court system.

At 10:00am, we began observing court hearings before Judge Haynes. We observed sentencing of two defendants, a motion to dismiss, and a motion to quash a warrant. Both of the sentencings were for felonies. The motion to dismiss was granted as the Defendant (pro se) had proven he successfully completed probation and had been contributing positively in the community. The Defendant had requested the dismissal due to his employment status as an insurance broker was contingent upon him dismissing the felony criminal charge against him. The motion to quash was denied, and the Defendant was taken into custody there in the courtroom.

At the conclusion of the hearings at 12:00pm, we proceeded to lunch and were joined by Hon. Tim Van Valin, Magistrate (due to prior scheduling, Judge Haynes was unable to attend). Lunch included pizza from Pizza Hut and beverages I was able to bring into the jury room where we ate. We were also joined by Deputy Prosecutor David Robins (the elected prosecutor, Barry McHugh was invited as he had personally supported several previous LTL! events, but was also unable to make it due to prior scheduling). Mr. Robins thoroughly impressed the students with his breadth of knowledge in criminal matters. Judge Van Valin gave the students the perspective of a judge. Both Mr. Robins and Judge Van Valin told anecdotal stories in response to the many questions the students asked.

At approximately 1:00pm, the teacher and students departed the courthouse.

Student Profiles: Of the 24 students who participated, 19 filled out LTL! Background Information forms.

Background Information.

Of the 19 students, 12 were female and 7 male. The students' ages ranged from 14 to 17, with only one 14 year old, and the rest evenly distributed between 15, 16, and 17. None of the students self-identified as being disabled. All except one reported English as being their native language. One student identified multiple races/ethnicities, the others who responded noted "White/Caucasian" as their race. One student identified "none" for religious affiliation and another wrote in "Atheist." The rest of the students who responded noted "Christianity" as their religion. One student self-identified as being, "Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender," the rest identified as being heterosexual. The students' political ideology and parental educational levels were reported across the spectrum of choices available.

Student/Teacher Feedback: Of the 24 students who participated, 19 filled out LTL! Event Evaluations.

Event Evaluations.

The event evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. Some students complained of having to sit for long periods of time (e.g., "uncomfortable chairs," "sitting for too long," and "better seats"), however the complaints made (if any) were usually accompanied by a positive comment about the event.

Background Information and Event Evaluations have been submitted to the LTL! Chair for filing/reference. I also have copies of these documents and they should be available should anyone request copies from me (Kinzo).

Costs Associated with Event:

The Love the Law! Subcommittee initially authorized \$250.00 for this event. After I investigated the charges for pizzas, etc., and upon being notified of an increase in prior pricing, I requested a small increase and was authorized \$280.00 in Section funds for this event. Receipts were submitted and Love the Law! funds were used to pay for the following expenses (I covered the expenses out of pocket, up-front and have been reimbursed from the ISB):

Expense	Amount
Sodas, plates, paper towels, etc.	\$42.21
Pizza Hut Pizzas	\$190.41
Misc. (Tip and Mileage)	\$47.28
Total	\$279.90

The Idaho State Bar and Diversity Section allowed for the students and chaperones to attend the event and luncheon for free. Excess food and beverages were donated to the Kootenai County Bailiff's and Clerk's offices in appreciation for their support.