

February 12, 2016

Jonathan M. Volyn – Meeting the Needs of the Community

In 2012 a firestorm burned 70 homes in the community of Pocatello, leaving families homeless and dozens of landowners and renters anxious about their future.

Jon Volyn organized a team of volunteer lawyers and held a town hall meeting in which residents could get quick, free legal advice in efforts to reclaim a sense of normalcy. Questions about the fire losses, liability and insurance claims were answered by a panel of local attorneys. The pro bono efforts Jon instigated were an expression of his longtime commitment to pro bono and community service. He has received pro bono awards from both Idaho and Washington bars in the past. He sees attorneys as playing a special role in the community, helping with a skillset that only attorneys possess. In that position, they are obliged to see where they can help.

Jon does frequent speaking at SoundStart and Court Assistance workshop presentations. He summed up his philosophy in an article after he earned the 2014 Service Award: “I have learned that lawyers can help in their community in ways other than legal representation we can volunteer in service, fundraise, or simply be there to help out in the community in any way where we might be needed.”

Jon currently lives in Caldwell and he works at Briggs & Volyn, LLC.

The Idaho State Bar is beginning a campaign to raise general awareness of the good deeds and admirable qualities of Idaho attorneys. For more information, or to share your community service story, contact ISB Communications Director Dan Black at dblack@isb.idaho.gov

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