



## Sixth District Lawyers Recognized by Idaho State Bar

August 15, 2016

BOISE – Several attorneys were honored by their colleagues at the Annual Meeting of the Idaho State Bar recently held in Boise. They were recognized for their contributions to the communities and the legal profession. For more information, contact the attorney directly, or Idaho State Bar Communications Director Dan Black at dblack@isb.idaho.gov or (208) 955-8866.

### Service Award

Rich Diehl, Jr., of Pocatello, has earned the Idaho State Bar’s Service Award for his contributions to the community and profession. Although busy as the city attorney, Mr. Diehl regularly volunteers at the Idaho Food Bank in Pocatello. He also helped to establish the Idaho Service Members and Veterans Clinic at ISU. He has served on his church’s Parish Council and as a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. For the past several years, he has served as a judge for Mock Trials in the Business Law class at Highland High School.

His professional service efforts include grading bar exams, serving as a Sixth District Bar Officer and as a presenter for Law Day at local high schools.

“There will always be a need for community members to donate their time, treasure and talents to serve their community,” he said. “By serving, I have learned that I enjoy it and makes me feel more in touch with my community.”

### Pro Bono Award

Douglas Merkley, Pocatello, has earned the Denise O’Donnell Day Pro Bono Award. Mr. Merkley donated 45 hours as an attorney volunteering through the CASA program and also enjoys mentoring new lawyers, and those interested in law. He also provides free consultations to Idaho Legal Aid referrals.

When asked what he would tell other attorneys considering doing pro bono he said:

“It is a duty for all of us to give back 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.”

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