



Fourth District Lawyers Recognized for Great Works

August 18, 2015

SUN VALLEY – Several Central Idaho attorneys were honored by their colleagues at the Annual Meeting of the Idaho State Bar in Sun Valley. They were recognized for their contributions to the community, to the cause of justice and for their accomplishments in the legal profession. The list below includes basic information of several outstanding Idaho attorneys. For more information, contact the attorney directly, or Idaho State Bar Communications Director Dan Black at dblack@isb.idaho.gov or (208) 955-8866.

James Davis, Boise, was honored with the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award for his contribution to the profession and for his devotion to the legal needs of his clients. He works in areas of law associated with defense of local Idaho governments and their elected officials and employees in civil rights, employment and tort litigation.

Hugh V. Mossman, Boise, was honored with the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award for his contribution to the profession and improving the lives of his clients. He practices in the workers’ compensation and Social Security disability areas. He served on the ISB Professional Conduct Board from 1991-97.

Debrha Carnahan, Boise, earned the Idaho State Bar’s Service Award for her volunteer efforts to close an attorney’s practice which had been abandoned. She has served on the Arbitration Committee for decades along with various other committees.

Amber Ellis, Boise, earned the Idaho State Bar’s Service Award for her contributions to the Law Day Committee, Bar Exam Grading, Idaho Women Lawyers Board of Directors, Professionalism & Ethics Committee, and other avenues for volunteerism.

Cpt. Stephen Stokes, Boise, has earned the Idaho State Bar Service Award in recognition for his influence and work improving the lives of military servicemen and women and their families. He has served as a volunteer with the Idaho Military Legal Alliance, which coordinates community and legal resources for military families and veterans. He also volunteers through numerous activities and is currently a member of the Pro Bono Commission.

Kimbell D. Gourley, Boise, earned the Idaho State Bar Service Award for his contribution to the profession through the Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section’s Governing Council for seven years, especially revitalizing the Section’s robust list-serve.

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G. Lance Salladay, Boise, was honored with the Idaho State Bar Service Award in recognition for his work in the community serving on the board of directors for the Hays Shelter Home and Ballet Idaho, and for serving as an Ambassador for Bogus Basin Ski Area. He also served as Chair of the Litigation Section in 2013 when it was awarded Section of the Year.

John E. Rumel, Boise, was honored with the Distinguished Lawyer Award, the highest honor given by the Idaho State Bar. He was the chief attorney for the Idaho Education Association for 17 years, working for the employment rights of Idaho's educators. In 2011 he joined the faculty of the University of Idaho, College of Law in Moscow. He was later transferred to Boise, where he teaches at UI's new location next to the state Capitol.

B. Newal Squyres, Boise, was honored with the Distinguished Lawyer Award, the highest honor given by the Idaho State Bar. Currently with Holland and Hart, LLP, Newal has distinguished himself as a respected litigator, practicing in several areas of law. He has served as an Idaho State Bar Commissioner, including one term as President. He also serves on the Idaho Pro Bono Commission, Idaho Partners Against Domestic Violence, Idaho Law Foundation, Citizens' Law Academy and other volunteer positions. In the community he has worked for decades as Boise Nationals Soccer Club Board and as coach.

Kenneth L. Pedersen, Boise, has earned the Idaho State Bar's highest honor, the Distinguished Lawyer Award. He is an accomplished litigator who has challenged large companies and returned verdicts that improve Americans' safety from dangerous pharmaceuticals. He practices mostly in the legal areas of general negligence, medical malpractice and product liability. Pedersen was also recognized for his contribution to the Association of Trial Lawyers of America Board of Directors, Idaho Trial Lawyers board and Fifth District Bar Association, where he served as president.

Joseph Pirtle, 36, Boise, was picked by the Idaho State Bar as the Outstanding Young Lawyer. His contribution to the profession, Idaho Law Foundation and to the community "exhibits professional excellence," according to his nomination. He works at Elam & Burke and does civil litigation with a focus on commercial and business litigation and insurance defense. Pirtle regularly performs pro bono work for the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. He is also past chair of the Litigation Section and has served on the Lawyer Assistance Program Committee since 2010.

Hon. Stephen S. Trott, Boise, was honored by the Idaho State Bar with the Distinguished Jurist Award. He was recognized for his contribution to excellence in the profession as well as his vast contributions to the people of Idaho. He regularly donates his time to lead legal and civics education programs and teach numerous Continuing Legal Education Classes for lawyers. He served as a board member of the Children's Home Society for 15 years, including time as president during its Capital Campaign. He has also served on the board of the Boise Philharmonic, where he has overseen the establishment of a permanent endowment fund. He regularly provides a scholarly pre-concert lecture before Philharmonic concerts. He also serves in numerous other community positions.

Hon. Cheri C. Copsey, and **Hon. Thomas F. Neville**, Fourth Judicial District, were recognized for their public service as judges, having retired in the previous year.

The Idaho State Bar also passed the gavel to its newest commissioner, **Kent A. Higgins**, who works at Merrill & Merrill in Pocatello. He is a former state legislator, former Sixth District Bar

Association President, a member of Pocatello Rotary Club, Chairman of BYU and J. Reuben Clark Alumni Associations and a member of the BYU-I President's Advisory Council.