

IDAHO
Access to Justice
...AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

PO Box 895, Boise, ID 83701-0895

May 15, 2020

Dear Section Chairs:

I am writing you on behalf of Access to Justice Idaho (AJI), which I have the pleasure of chairing. My purpose for writing is two-fold; first, to thank your Section leadership and members for your past support and, second, to ask your Section to contribute once again to our 2020 fund raising campaign.

AJI is a group of volunteer lawyers whose sole purpose is raising supplemental funds to support the primary providers of pro bono legal services to low-income and disabled Idaho citizens: the Idaho Volunteer Lawyer Program (IVLP), Idaho Legal Aid Services (ILAS) and DisAbility Rights Idaho (DRI).

The Idaho State Bar Sections have become a reliable contributor to this worthy cause. These funds enabled the programs we support to provide advice and representation in civil cases to nearly 10,000 vulnerable Idahoans. **This success is a great tribute to the generosity of all ISB members, regardless of their areas of practice.**

The demand for pro bono legal services is ever constant and increasing. As COVID-19 has demonstrated, the need can shift and grow in a matter of days. As the fallout from the global pandemic has rippled through Idaho, many people have lost jobs and are unable to pay rent. As landlords move to evict struggling tenants, ILAS and IVLP are working to provide representation to individuals at risk of homelessness. In addition, ILAS has ramped up an advice hotline for individuals with COVID_19 related issues and IVLP planned and implemented telephone legal clinics to serve people statewide. At DRI, attorneys ensure that disabled residents of facilities are protected from the virus and that the rights of special education students thrust into a virtual learning environment are preserved. These organizations are working to meet the needs of the current crisis while continuing to provide the legal services required by low-income citizens every day.

There is no way the legal service programs AJI supports can meet this expanding need without the continuing financial support of every ISB Section. So, please ask the Executive Committee of your Section, at its next meeting, to renew your Section's contribution for another year. At a minimum, we are asking every Section to match its 2019 gift. However, if additional funds are available please consider increasing your donation and making an even greater impact.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Also, a member of our Steering Committee would be glad to attend a future meeting of your Executive Committee to offer more information and answer any questions. **All of your Section members can share a sense of professional pride in making access to justice a reality, not just a slogan.**

Yours for a noble cause,



Bill Mauk, Chair
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