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# On the Cover



Since early 2020, the COVID pandemic has struck a devastating blow to life as we knew it. Quarantine became the new way of life, necessary to prevent COVID from spreading. Many lost their lives, others lost their jobs, homes and security. Sadness and depression became the uninvited way of life. But now we are coming out of that darkness, and life is beginning to flourish once again. As we begin each day, we need to remember to take time to pause and take in the true beauty of life around us in our families, friends, and nature. This photo, taken by Julie Harrison, is of a Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly in the midst of a large cluster of Tiger Lilies. Julie is a legal assistant at Evans Keane LLP.

# Distinguished Lawyers

- 10 Howard A. Belodoff, *Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc.*
- 14 Donald J. Chisholm, *Chisholm Law Office*
- 18 Debora Kristensen Grasham, Givens Pursley LLP

# Distinguished Jurist

24 Hon. Deborah A. Bail, Fourth District Court

# Outstanding Young Lawyer

30 T. Matthew Wolfe, Ludwig Shoufler Miller Johnson, LLP

## Other Awards

- 34 Professionalism Awards
- 40 Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Awards
- 46 Service Awards

# Milestone Attorneys

- 52 70 Years of Admission: Admitted in 1951
- 53 65 Years of Admission: Admitted in 1956
- 53 60 Years of Admission: Admitted in 1961
- 53 50 Years of Admission: Admitted in 1971

## Additional Awards

- 60 Section of the Year
- 60 Retiring Idaho Judges
- 60 The Advocate Awards

## From the Bar

7 From the Editor

Donald F. Carey, Diane K. Minnich, and Lindsey M. Welfley

8 Bar Actions

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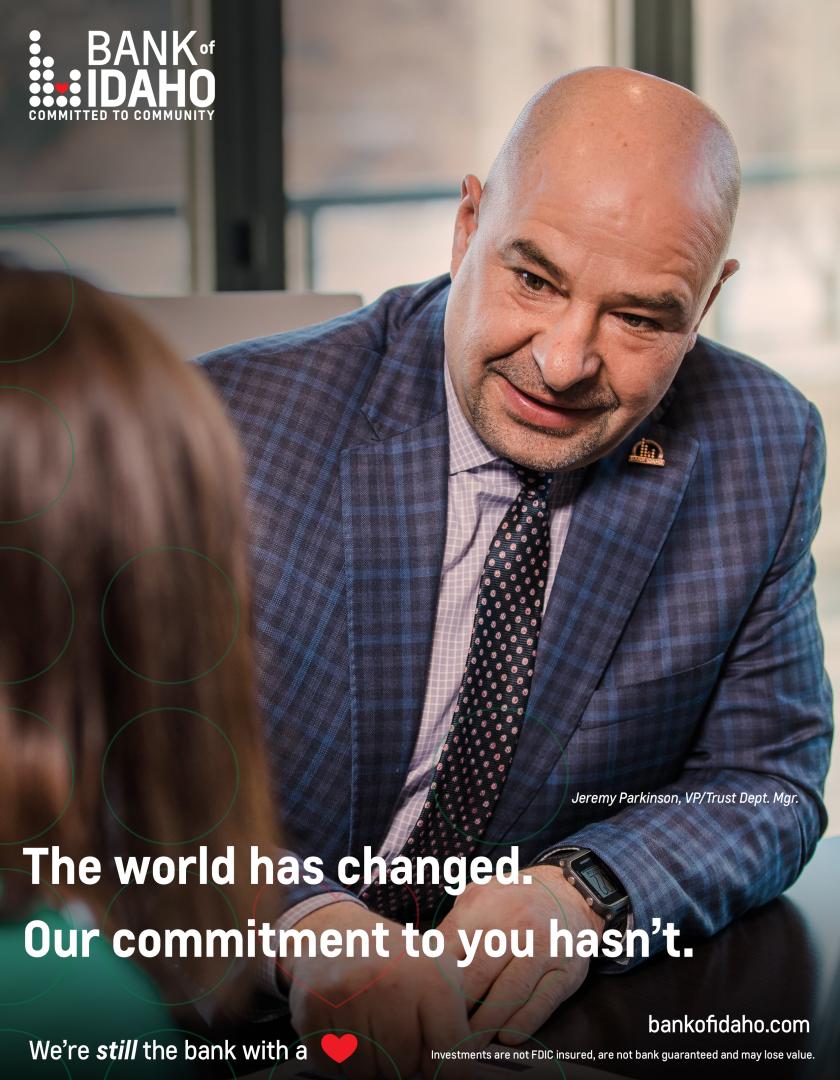


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# **Congratulations 2021 Award Recipients**

Donald F. Carey Diane K. Minnich Lindsey M. Welfley

Telcome to the August issue of *The Advocate*, recognizing and honoring the 2021 Idaho State Bar award recipients.

First, our Distinguished Lawyer and Jurist awards are presented each year to attorneys and a member of the judiciary who have exhibited exemplary conduct, professionalism, and many years of dedicated service to the legal profession and the citizens of Idaho. This year's recipients are Howard A. Belodoff, Donald J. Chisholm, Debora Kristensen Grasham, and the Hon. Deborah A. Bail.

The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recognizes a young lawyer who has provided service to the profession, the Idaho State Bar, the Idaho Law Foundation, Inc., to their community, and who exhibits professional excellence. This year's recipient is T. Matthew Wolfe.

Next, meet this year's Professionalism Awards winners. This award is given to at least one attorney in each of Idaho's seven judicial districts who has engaged in activities in his or her community, in the state, or in the profession, which reflect the highest standards of professionalism.

The Service Awards are presented to individuals from around Idaho who have contributed their time and talents to serving the public and improving the legal profession. We invite you to read about this year's recipients.

The Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Awards are presented to attorneys in each of the judicial districts who have donated extraordinary time and effort to help clients who are unable to pay for legal services. You will enjoy reading about these generous attorneys.

Finally, we honor the milestone attorneys who have been admitted to the Idaho State Bar for 50, 60, 65 and 70 years.

We invite you to read about the individuals and groups we honor this year and congratulate your colleagues for their service and commitment to the legal profession. Best,

ON O







Donald F. Carey Idaho State Bar President Sixth and Seventh Districts



Diane K. Minnich Executive Director Idaho State Bar & Idaho Law Foundation, Inc.



Lindsey M. Welfley Communications Director Idaho State Bar & Idaho Law Foundation, Inc.

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August 2021

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## **NOTICE TO DARREN L. McKENZIE** OF CLIENT ASSISTANCE **FUND CLAIM**

Pursuant to Idaho Bar Commission Rule 614(a), the Idaho State Bar hereby gives notice to Darren L. McKenzie that a Client Assistance Fund claim has been filed against him by former client Nathan Helburn, in the amount of \$200. Please be advised that service of this claim is deemed complete fourteen (14) days after the publication of this issue of The Advo-

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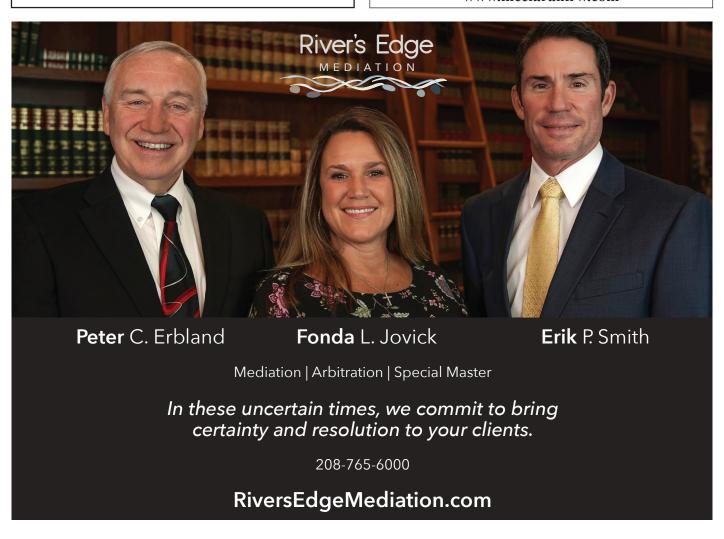


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Photos courtesy of Howard Belodoff.

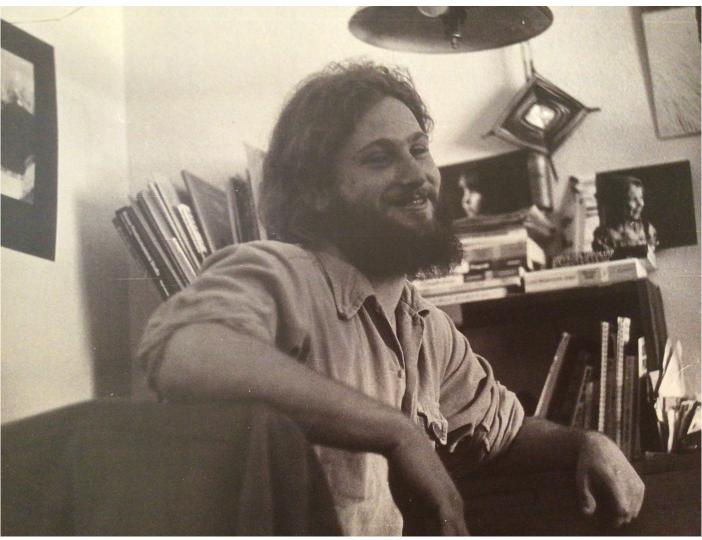
# Howard A. Belodoff, Idaho Legal Aid Services Inc.

egal Aid attorney Howard A. Belodoff (Howie) has spent his 43-year legal career advocating for the rights of tens of thousands of Idahoans. Howie has represented low income, disabled, unhoused and institutionalized Idahoans in cases challenging governmental policies which violate constitutional and civil rights of persons in Idaho and nationwide. Howie is licensed to practice by the Idaho Supreme Court, United States Federal District Court, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, United States Supreme Court, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Tribal Court. He has successfully argued 15 appeals in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, has filed briefs in three U.S. Supreme Court cases, and has argued ten Idaho Supreme Court appeals.

Originally hailing from New York, Howie was born in Brooklyn in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty to an immigrant family. His family was among the first to move to the rapidly growing Long Island suburbia in the 1950s. Howie attended the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, receiving his B.A. in History with a minor in Criminal Justice, magna cum laude, in 1974. His study of 20th Century American history and politics during the Vietnam War era, as well as criminal justice and prison reform during his undergraduate education piqued his interest in the legal profession, eventually leading him to the University of Idaho, College of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor in 1978.

Law degree in hand, Howie sought opportunities early in his career to help people in a practical, meaningful way, all based on his guiding principle that equal means equal. During law school, Howie received the Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship from Howard University and after graduation began working at Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc. (ILAS), in Boise where he has remained for the entirety of his career. Howie has served as ILAS's Associate Director since 1981 and served as the Director of the Indian Law Unit for 22 years.

His early work with ILAS placed him in Idaho's prisons, jails and state hospitals, working to rectify injustices caused by the conditions of confinement and discriminatory policies. This work included advocating for better treatment for mentally ill children and adults, and equal access to facilities, programming, and healthcare for incarcerated women. One case, originating in 1980, is Jeff D. v. Little - a class action that continues today, 41 years later. Jeff D. seeks to address the lack of mental health services for children who experience serious emotional disturbances (SED). Howie is the Court appointed Next Friend for the Jeff D class which is composed of the 20,000 Idaho children who are annually estimated to suffer from SED. The case started due to the failure of the State of Idaho to separate children, as



Howard studying at University of Idaho College of Law in 1975-76.

young as ten, from adult patients at State Hospital South and to provide children with age-appropriate mental health treatment and educational services. The objective of the lawsuit was to create a system of assessable community-based mental health services for children who experience a mental health crisis to avoid placement in out-of-state residential care facilities to receive treatment.

Howie was prompted to start his own private practice after a 1996 Congressional restriction on legal aid attorneys' ability to bring class actions. Feeling a deep commitment to the Jeff D children, Howie opted to transition to a part-time practice with ILAS while continuing his work on *Jeff D* and other cases. His private practice was and remains devoted primarily to civil rights, employment, and public interest cases.

Howie has also advocated for the rights of Indigenous Native American people and tribes. These cases involved land leases and rights-of-way on the Fort Hall Reservation and family law matters under the Indian Child Welfare Act. In 2006, with the association of Ernestine Broncho Wereless, a tribal elder, of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Howie challenged the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) mismanagement of agricultural and grazing leases and the unlawful disclosure of confidential landowner information. Fort Hall Landowners Alliance (FHLA) v. Bureau of Indian Affairs was a milestone case that resulted in the end of the BIA's mismanagement of trust lands owned by the tribal members on the Fort Hall Reserva-

The FHLA case was one of several which challenged the BIA's release of con-

fidential land ownership information to prospective tenants and utility companies who sought to take advantage of the BIA's flawed appraisal system that undervalued agricultural leases and rights-of-way renewals. For decades, Fort Hall Superintendents would consent to leases and compensation for rights-of-ways at far less than fair market value and failed to penalize land trespassers. Resolution of this case achieved a multimillion-dollar settlement paying tribal landowners statutory damages of at least \$1,000 per violation or their actual loses for the violation of the Federal Privacy Act. Other FHLA cases required the Secretary of the Interior to finalize new leasing regulations, including triple civil trespass damages, and required the BIA to conduct sealed bidding of land leases on Indian Reservations. The long-term effect has tripled the lease rent-



Howard hanging out with his wife Kathy at Redfish Lake.



Howard with his youngest, Calle. Any recommendations on how to convince her to go to law school?

al rates for agricultural land on the Reservation and utilities companies are paying millions of dollars in compensation for renewals of expired pipeline and electrical transmission line rights-of-way across tribal and individually owned trust land across the Reservation.

Martin v. City of Boise was another nationally impactful case. Litigated over the course of ten years beginning in 2009, this case required two successful appeals of dismissal by the District Court and a denial of the City's United States Supreme Court Petition for a Writ of Certiorari. In 2019, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the criminalization status of homeless persons by citing and arresting them under Boise's "camping" ordinances for sleeping in public places when they had no alternative shelter, constituted cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision has led public officials nationwide to seek solutions for homelessness rather than resorting to police enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Aside from case work and litigation, Howie has committed his time and expertise to several entities as a volunteer and pro bono service within the legal community. He served on the Federal District of Idaho's Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Committee from 1991-96, the Ninth Circuit's Task Force on Prisoner Remedy Procedures from 1994-97, and various other Court committees throughout his career. Howie has been a member of and held leadership positions on the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) Civil Policy Committee, the Idaho Law Foundation Board of Directors, Idaho Trial Lawyers Association Foundation (ITLA), Idaho State Bar Litigation Section, and Richard C. Fields American Inns of Court.

Howie's pro bono service includes work with Veterans and Homeless Stand Downs, a founder and volunteer at the Interfaith Sanctuary Homeless Shelter, the

ITLA Street Law Clinic, the Family Advocates CASA program, mentoring law students, as an Advisory Board member of Voices for Children and as a founding Board member of the FC NOVA soccer club. His well-deserving career earned him the distinct honor of the Reginald Heber Smith Award from the NLADA in 2020. Howie received ITLA's James J. May Trial Lawyer of the Year Award in 2018, the Idaho State Bar's Service Award in 2009, and multiple other accolades.

All of these accomplishments, Howie recounts, would not have been possible if not for the unwavering support of his family. Howie and his wife, Kathy, were married in 2007. His family includes a son Ryen, a daughter Calle and two stepdaughters, Logan and Amber. In his free time, Howie enjoys spending time traveling, on Payette Lake in McCall, reading, walking, weightlifting, and biking with Kathv.

Howie recognizes his accomplishments would not have been possible without his brave clients who stood with him and trusted his judgment. Howie would also like to extend his gratitude to his many dedicated colleagues during his years at ILAS and to the members of the Idaho State Bar and Judiciary who he has the opportunity to work with in the practice of law.



Howard experiencing "good trouble" while representing homeless clients.



Photos courtesy of Donald Chisholm.

# Donald J. Chisholm, Chisholm Law Office

orn and raised in Burley, Idaho to a farm equipment dealer and a schoolteacher, Donald (Don) Chisholm has been an integral member of the Southeastern Idaho community his entire professional career. Don has been in private practice since he began practicing law in 1967, and he is a consistent example of the values learned from the close knit, rural communities in which he has made his home.

Don grew up doing summer work in his family's farm equipment business, working with his father and uncle. Early on, this working foundation taught Don the tenets of good business and helped him gain an understanding of and appreciation for the intricacies of his community. Leaving his rural hometown to attend college, Don graduated from the University of Portland with a B.A. in business administration and finance in 1964. Having always had a fascination with the law and legal profession, Don's next step after completing his undergraduate work was to attend law school. He left Portland for the San Francisco Bay Area to attend the University of San Francisco School of Law, where he earned an LL.B./J.D. in 1967.

After law school, while preparing to take the California bar exam, Don received an offer to go to work for Bill Goodman and Larry Duff in Rupert, Idaho for \$400/ month and working part-time as a deputy prosecutor for Minidoka County. Making his way back home that same year, Don has never regretted his decision.

Don worked at the Law Office of Goodman & Duff, later Goodman, Duff, & Chisholm, until 1982. During his time there, as with most small-town law practices, Don practiced just about every type of law under the sun. In addition to his regular day-to-day practice, he worked to establish public mental health services in Minidoka County while also serving the

community in a variety of part-time municipal law capacities. Don was the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Minidoka County from 1967-68, Prosecuting Attorney for Minidoka County from 1969-72, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Rupert from 1969-77, and City Attorney for the City of Rupert from 1978-91. He has represented the West End Fire Protection District for Minidoka and Jerome Counties since 1981.

One notable case from early in Don's career was Paulson v. Minidoka County School District No. 331 in 1970. This was a case in which the son of a family who had refused to pay school fees but who was otherwise allowed to attend classes and fulfill his education requirements, was subsequently denied a high school transcript, hindering his ability to attend college at Idaho State University. The Idaho Supreme Court ruled in favor of the son and his family, deeming the fee structure



Don spending some quality time with his youngest granddaughter, Norah, while she visited him at home in Rupert in 2018.

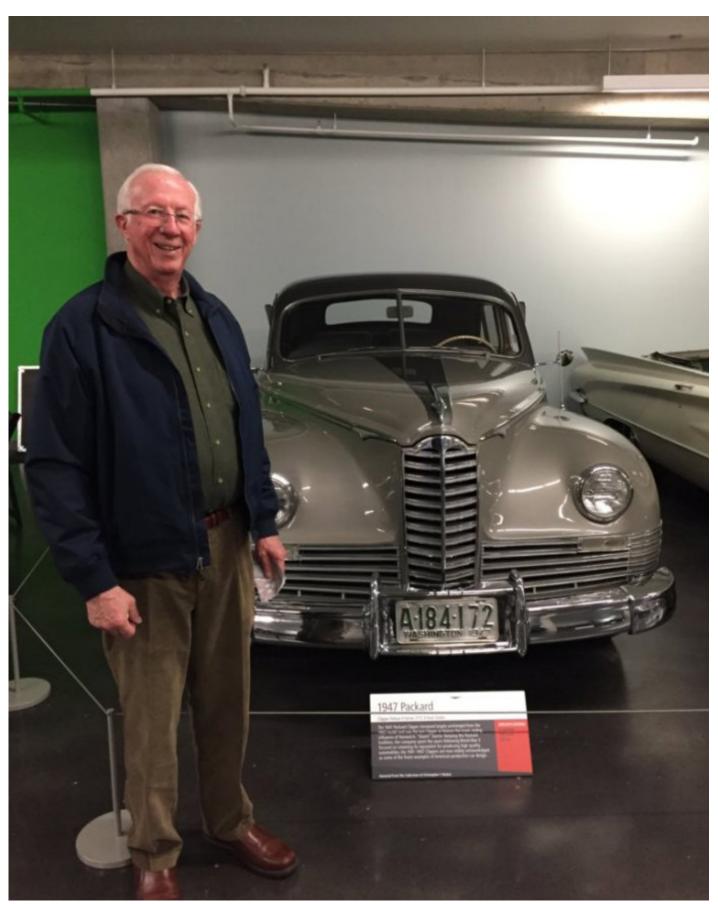
of the school district unconstitutional and requiring that the transcript be provided.

After working a little over a decade with Goodman, Duff, and Chisholm, Don started his own practice in Burley in 1983, where he has worked ever since. His practice throughout the years has included general practice, small business representation, real estate, estate planning and probate, municipal law, civil litigation involving domestic relations, and an occasional criminal defense case.

Another career highlight came in 1987, when Don represented the plaintiff in Etcheverry Sheep Co. v. J.R. Simplot Co. Etcheverry Sheep Company lost over 120 yearling sheep in an incident in which a dump truck from J.R. Simplot Company ran into the lead end of the band which was being trailed to the desert by herders on a county road. The claim by the Simplot company was that livestock cannot be trailed on public roads in a herd district, due to the "fence in" rules applying to livestock in these districts. The Idaho Supreme Court ruled in favor of Etcheverry Sheep Company, holding that the trailing of livestock under supervision of herders

is permitted in herd districts. This case was one of significant importance to Idaho's livestock industry. Don notes the accomplishment as particularly memorable.

After having practiced for over 30 years, Don received two back-to-back public service appointments by Governor Dirk Kempthorne. Don was appointed to the Idaho Board of Health & Welfare in 1999 and then to the Idaho Board of the Department of Environmental Quality in 2000, where he was the first chairman. Additionally, Don has served the legal community in a variety of capacities throughout his career, including as Presi-



Don reminiscing about the family Packard dealership and a 1946 Packard he learned to drive at age 14 at the LeMay Car Museum in Tacoma, WA.



Celebrating the high school graduation of his oldest granddaughter, Madeleine, with the whole family in Mountain View, CA in 2018.

dent of the Idaho State Bar Fifth District Bar Association, former member of the Appellate Rules Committee of the Idaho Supreme Court, former member of the Idaho State Bar Disciplinary Committee, former panelist on the Idaho State Bar Exam Preparation Committee, and former member of the American Arbitration Association's panel of arbitrators for the Northwest Region.

Don has continued to give back to his community through service and community-related activities, including as a member and past president of the Rupert Rotary Club, former director and past president of the Rupert Country Club, former director and past president of Magic Valley Regional Rehabilitation Services, Inc., and member of the board of St. Nicholas School.

Throughout his career, Don has looked to several individuals as role models for his personal and professional lives. Don recalls the early influences of both Bill Goodman and Larry Duff as having played a vital, positive role in his career development. He notes the inspirational life and career of the late Judge Sherman Bellwood, whose competent, kind, and considerate demeanor was a worthy example to follow.

Outside of his career, Don is devoted to his family - he and his wife, Jean, were married in 1974 and have three children, Christine, Bernard, and Elise. Don enjoys golfing and gardening, though he lightheartedly mentions that the years have taken their toll on his golf game. With some closing thoughts, Don mentions: "I have really enjoyed practicing law in a small community dealing with many aspects of people's lives. My practice has narrowed to representation of small business entities, real property, and estate issues in the last couple of decades, but I have found it interesting and rewarding to have been a legal advisor to local units of government and several generations of the same families in my 53 years of practice in the Mini-Cassia area."

Don would like to extend his gratitude to his wife and children who have enriched his life and shared him with the Jealous Mistress known as the law. He wants to thank his legal assistants, whom he can't refrain from referring to as secretaries, for their competent help and friendship, and the many clients who have entrusted him with important legal issues in their lives.



Photos courtesy of Debora Kristensen Grasham.

# Debora Kristensen Grasham, Givens Pursley LLP

he oldest of three girls, Debora (Deb) Kristensen Grasham was born outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her father worked as an engineer, and his job took the family from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin, then finally California. Eventually, her father decided to pursue a new career in law and Deb recalls her father putting in long days at work only to continue his day with a commute into San Francisco to attend law school at night. Deb also recalls the patience and strength of her mother in supporting her father during this time, while raising three girls. Deb grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area from her kindergarten years and jokes that anyone who knows her would categorize her as a Californian.

All throughout high school Deb played just about every sport and carried that athleticism into her collegiate career, playing volleyball at the University of California, Berkeley. Deb initially attended U.C. Berkeley with the intention of going

to medical school and becoming a doctor - she recalls, however, a change in perspective after someone stole her lab book for her organic chemistry class. If those around her were already that cutthroat, she was not certain the medical profession was going to be a good fit for her.

Deb changed course, received her B.A. in Psychology, took the LSAT her senior year, and, remembering the hard work of her father, started down the path toward law school. She attended Santa Clara University School of Law, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review receiving her law degree in 1990. Immediately after graduation she accepted a job in San Francisco and had planned to remain a Bay Area kid but having also met and fallen in love with her first husband who was in medical school at UCLA, another course change was right around the corner.

Together in 1990, Deb and her thenhusband moved to Seattle for his orthopedic surgery residency where they would stay for the next five and a half years. Deb recalls being fortunate enough to have an interview with the law firm of Davis Wright Tremaine as soon as she arrived in Seattle – she was offered the job same-day and accepted. Thus began her career in the law with her time in Seattle serving as the starting-off point for the next several decades of what would become a markedly impressive commercial litigation practice.

Her first assignment as she walked through the door of her new office was in media law with instructions to draft a petition for a writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court on behalf of the firm's high-profile client, CNN. At the time, CNN had been barred by a federal district court in Florida from broadcasting the contents of recordings of Manuel Noriega, the former dictator of Panama, with his defense team that had been taped by the government while Noriega was in a Miami jail. In just a few short weeks, the case escalated from the district court to



Deb and her father, Bob Dimino – a long-time practicing attorney in California.

the U.S. Supreme Court. Deb remembers this as an early career highlight, having excitedly called her parents to tell them to turn on the news and see what she was working on in her new job.

A few years later in 1996, Deb transferred to her firm's Boise office to relocate for the start of her husband's career and a family. They had their first son, Drew, that same year, followed by their second son, Trent, in 1999. Around this time, Davis Wright Tremaine was winding down its Boise office and Deb began looking to work elsewhere. She went to work in the commercial litigation practice at Givens Pursley LLP in 1999 and has happily been there ever since. In addition to her varied litigation practice, Deb has maintained her passion for media law and represents most of the local Boise media outlets and national entities who find themselves involved in legal disputes for access or litigation

After her move to Givens Pursley, Deb and her first husband divorced in 2002. Now a working, single mom with a five and two-year-old, Deb recounts her gratitude to her new colleagues, crediting the partners at the time for their understanding, support, and encouragement. Deb did not have the luxury of staying home

with her boys, and instead recommitted to her practice and engagement with the bar.

In 2002, Deb was elected to represent the Fourth District as only the third woman to serve on the Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners - later also serving as

Idaho State Bar Commission President during her term from 2002 to 2005. Deb mentions that her time on the Board was another career highlight, as she felt a sense of pride to be part of the Idaho State Bar's history and truly enjoyed traveling across the state to meet fellow Idaho lawyers from all walks of life. It was also during this time that Deb took note of something that she would make it her goal to change. During the first Annual Meeting that Deb attended as an Idaho State Bar Commissioner, she noticed that all the past recipients of the Bar's highest honor, the Distinguished Lawyer Award, were men. Deb was disappointed to not see a single woman and was determined to change this. Thus, the very next year in 2003, she successfully nominated long-time Rexburg attorney Mary Smith Oldham - the 10th woman admitted to practice law in Idaho - to become the first woman to receive the Distinguished Lawyer award. Since then, Deb proudly notes, the Idaho State Bar has recognized several other outstanding women with this award for their achievements - making her selection this year even more meaningful and special.

Deb notes that her main role models, first and foremost, have always been her mother and father, Bob and Kathy Dimino. Both personally and professionally in



Deb and her mom, Kathy Dimino.



Deb and her husband, Charlie Grasham, enjoying the outdoors in Big Sky, Montana during a break in attending one of Deb's many bar-related conferences.



Spending family time together is one of Deb's favorite things to do with her blended family. From left to right, Josh Grasham, Chelsey and Mark Fristoe, Charlie and Deb Grasham, Spud (the golden retriever), and Drew and Trent Kristensen.

every way, Deb looked to them for guidance and learned from them that family is always first. She was taught by her parents that for all the things that seem to matter in a career, people – and family in particular – are what are the most important.

Deb also mentions if she had to pick a single professional role model other than her parents, she would attribute much of what she learned early on to the late Cam DeVore during her time at Davis Wright. Cam took Deb under his wing and made it his mission to get her meaningfully involved in what was, at that time, a man's world, and a heavily male-dominated profession. Deb described Cam as a brilliant, nationally known First Amendment lawyer who never took himself too seriously and always made others feel valued. He taught her that the practice of law is tough, but a worthwhile and noble profession and to remember that lawyers are so much more than just people who show up in court for their clients.

Over the course of more than 30 years, Deb has been fortunate to represent clients, both big and small, in a variety of industries and areas. From the Seattle Seahawk's Brian Bosworth, triple crown winner Seattle Slew, national media entities USA Today, CBS and TNT, to the Idaho Dairymen's Association, Union Pacific Railroad, and numerous local media entities including KTVB, The Idaho Statesman, Adams Publishing, and the Idaho State Broadcasters Association. This varied clientele has allowed Deb to build relationships throughout the state and region, and work in exciting areas of law in both state and federal court.

While Deb has served on several community and Bar-related boards and committees, her dedication to and fascination with the legal profession has been a special area of interest. A self-proclaimed history buff, Deb has taken on countless historyrelated projects over the years. In 2005, she worked on and published the First 50 Women in Idaho Law project for the Idaho State Bar, in which she compiled an expanse of research detailing the lives of the first 50 women to be licensed to practice law in Idaho. Deb considers it a special responsibility to collect, capture, and preserve these stories so that they are not lost with the passage of time

In this same vein, Deb has been very involved in the Idaho Legal History Society, having served as its President from 2008 to 2010. More recently, she has also been a member of the Board of Directors for the Ninth Iudicial Circuit Historical Society, and currently serves as its Chair (the first Idahoan to hold such position). Deb brought her interest in women's legal history to the Society by highlighting the first woman to practice law in each of the Ninth Circuit jurisdictions via the Society's webpage and social media platforms. She also recently assisted the Idaho State Historical Museum with their exhibit on Trailblazing Women in Idaho and a similar exhibit planned to be displayed at the Idaho Capitol building.

Deb married Charlie Grasham three years ago, whom she credits with much patience and support as she pursues her many interests and busy practice. They live in Boise with their golden retriever Spud. Deb would like to extend her sincere thanks and gratitude to her family, friends, and colleagues at Givens Pursley and throughout the Bar for their support over the years. She notes that she is "not dead yet" and plans to be around for many years to come.

## **Endnotes**

1. See Cable News Network, Inc. v. Noriega, 498 U.S. 976 (1990).



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The University of Idaho is proud to announce the appointment of Johanna Kalb to serve as dean of the College of Law.

Dean Kalb earned her bachelor's degree from Stanford University, a master's degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins University and her J.D. from Yale. She is a published scholar in constitutional law and human rights. Kalb joins the University of Idaho from Loyola University New Orleans. Please join us in welcoming her to the Vandal family.







# **Idaho Women Lawyers congratulates**

# **JUDGE DEBORAH BAIL**

# for being named the Idaho State Bar's 2021 Distinguished Jurist!

Judge Bail has served Ada County selflessly since 1983 and not only has she paved the way for many more female judges, but she has also had a long and remarkable career. Congratulations to someone who dared to take that leap of faith and then worked incredibly hard every day to do her best for the litigants, their lawyers, the District, and the State. IWL wants to share some interesting and fun facts about Judge Bail that she may not have mentioned.

1st

The 1st female District Judge in Idaho

10

The number of years it took for a **second female District Judge** to be appointed. As **Judge Bail** was fond of saying, "I don't mind being a pioneer, I just wish the other wagons would get here!"

11

11/11/01 on the11th hole – **Judge Bail,** over water, made a hole-in-one!

1984

Judge Bail determined the value, for tax purposes, of the Union Pacific Railroad in Union Pacific Railroad Co. v. Looney. Her decision was read across the country and even incorporated into the curriculum at the prestigious Wharton School of Business as an excellent valuation method.



400+

Number of trials she's presided over during her long and distinguished career as a **District Judge.** 

2,800

The number of weddings Judge Bail has officiated (the most unique venue was inside a hot air balloon!)

1st

The 1st Northwest School of Law student to participate in the federal government's Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship program, which allowed her to move to Boise where she played an instrumental role in establishing one of the first shelters for battered and abused women.

38

The number of years she has served as a **District Judge in Idaho.** She was appointed by the late Governor John V. Evans in 1983. She is now the **longest sitting District Judge in Idaho.** 

6

The number of languages Judge Bail can speak – German, French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and oh, English!

# **Countless**

The number of times **Judge Bail** has shown kindness and compassion and taken the time to work with and talk with criminal defendants about ways to live differently, make positive changes and have hope.



Photos courtesy of Hon. Deborah Bail.

# Hon. Deborah A. Bail, Fourth District Court

ourth District Judge Deborah Bail boasts a career filled with historic milestones for the legal profession in the State of Idaho. Admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1975, Judge Bail is one of Idaho's first 50 women lawyers, later claiming another first with her appointment as Idaho's first female District Judge. She has been at the helm of ushering in many marked improvements to the lives of Idaho's citizens, both early in her legal career and as a member of Idaho's judiciary.

Considering herself a Midwesterner at heart, Judge Bail was born in Wichita, Kansas where she and her family lived until her early teens. Her father was an engineer, and her mother had a degree in archaeology. Both parents were encouraging of all endeavors, consistently instilling the perception that there was not a single thing women could not - or should not pursue. It was not until her entrance into college that Judge Bail was met with even the slightest indication that society at the time may have a different point of view.

At the end of Judge Bail's high school career, her family moved to Hawaii and she attended the University of Hawaii for two years. Judge Bail then transferred to Lewis and Clark College in Portland where she finished her undergraduate education and received her B.A. in history in 1971. Judge Bail recalls always holding on to the assumption that she would have some sort of career and she considered both the medical and legal professions.

To some degree, the law was always in her peripherals, as her family history is steeped with strong ties to the legal profession - female ancestors on her mother's side of the family had been blazing the trail for women in the law since well before this Nation's inception. One of her mother's ancestors, Margaret Brent, was the first woman in the soon-to-be United States to perform legal services, representing the royal governors of both Maryland and Virginia in the 1600s. Another of her mother's ancestors served as George Washington's lawyer and spent time as Thomas Jefferson's law partner. He was a judge who trained many young lawyers. He presided over the Constitutional Convention when Benjamin Franklin was unavailable.

Some may say these early influences set the course for Judge Bail's later career trajectory. What is certain, Judge Bail recalls, is that she was drawn to the practice of law after witnessing the good things lawyers were doing to improve the lives of people nationwide during the dynamic years of the 1960-70s while she was in col-

After her undergraduate education, Judge Bail remained in Portland and attended Northwestern School of Law where she received her Juris Doctorate. She viewed her entry into the legal pro-



Judge Deborah Bail and her daughter Basanti attend polo match in Hawaii. Deborah's mother, Virginia Bail, presented the trophy to the winning team in the India vs. Hawaii match.

fession as an opportunity to make real change in the lives of those around her. Immediately after graduating with her J.D. she received the Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship - the first from her law school to do so. This brought her to Idaho where she worked with the Boise office for Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc. from 1975 until 1977. One of her early practical lessons that was not taught in law school - keep a box of Kleenex at your desk for your clients.

Her time in public service law resulted in another first, the establishment of Emergency Housing Services - the first shelter in Idaho for homeless women and their children, and victims of domestic violence. These new services in Idaho came ahead of the curve of many more densely populated, urban centers around the country. Following the conclusion of her fellowship, Judge Bail began work developing legal services for the elderly in Idaho.

In 1978, Judge Bail transitioned back to her original love of trial work. She handled civil matters and prosecuted federal cases as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Idaho. She enjoyed this work until 1983, when she was appointed to the District Court bench by Governor John V.

Evans. Judge Bail took office on April 18, 1983 as the first woman District Judge in Idaho. During her tenure on the bench, she has served as a pro tem on both the Idaho Supreme Court and Idaho Court of Appeals. Hearkening back to her love of public service law, she continues to lead efforts to reduce costs in district court cases while improving public access to the court system for Idaho's citizens.

Judge Bail points to two notable moments in her career as being those of personal importance. First, her work on Idaho Schools for Equal Educational Opportunity v. State of Idaho from 1990 to 2005 left a marked impression on how she views her role as a judge. Throughout the course of this case, Judge Bail notes the incredible responsibility that comes with issuing a decision that holds such far-reaching implications. In this case, Judge Bail mentions coming to terms with the possible ramifications of doing what she deemed to be the right thing, despite the possible unpopular opinion to the contrary. The Idaho Supreme Court's decision to uphold her judgment that Idaho's system for funding school construction projects was unconstitutional was a welcomed one.

Second on the list of rewarding career moments is the beginning of Judge Bail's responsibilities as a treatment court judge in 2017. In addition to maintaining a heavy docket of both criminal and civil cases, Judge Bail is responsible for Ada County Drug Court 1, where she works with defendants who are trying to gain control of their addiction and build law-



Judge Deborah Bail and her daughter Basanti enjoying some winter fun in Sun Valley.



Judge Deborah Bail keeping dry and admiring the Trevi fountain with other tourists in Rome.

abiding, productive lives that they truly enjoy. Judge Bail has found this time to be incredibly rewarding and notes the importance of utilizing evidence-based practices for this most vulnerable population.

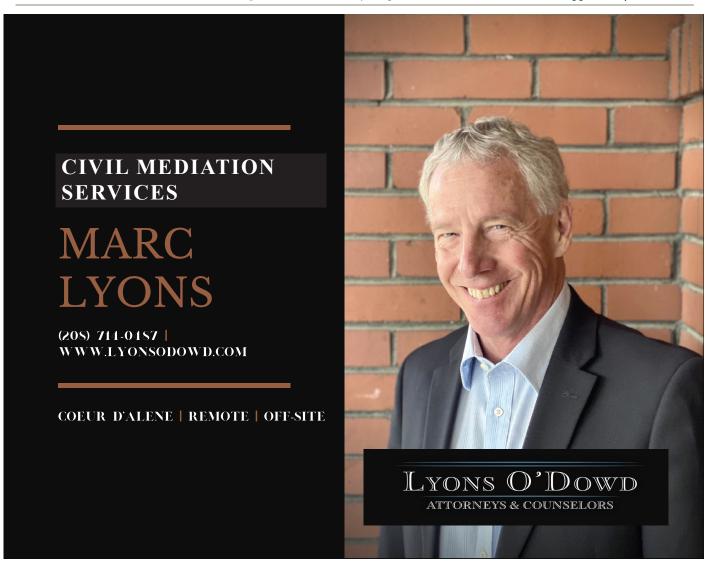
Judge Bail's service to the community, both legal and otherwise, stretches far and wide. She served as a faculty judge for the University of Virginia College of Trial Advocacy in 2008 and as a presenter at the Osher Institute on Criminal Sentencing in 2011. Her time on several Court committees has included that of the Idaho Civil Rules Committee, Judicial Fairness Committee, Judicial Education Committee, Criminal Jury Instructions Committee, and the Gender Fairness Task Force. She served as the Chair of the Idaho Law Foundation's Law Related Education Committee, as both past president and officer of the Idaho District Judges' Association, has volunteered with the Idaho Mock Trial program, and was a speaker for the Citizens' Law Academy on sentencing. She enjoys interacting with children and adults and introducing them to the legal system.

Judge Bail has also served on the Board of Directors for the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, the Board of Trustees for the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and the Board of the Rotary Club of Boise - also being one of the first women members. She is a former member of the St. Luke's CARES Advisory Board and served on the Board of Directors for the Small Village Foundation, a Boise-based foundation sponsoring adult and youth service trips to South Africa to work with underprivileged populations in the Zulu heartland.

Judge Bail has a daughter who she adopted from India as a young toddler; Basanti considers herself an Idaho native and works at Micron Technology. Together they have worked on various projects that address homelessness in Boise. Judge Bail is an avid traveler, loves golfing and mystery novels.

After decades of committed service to the people of Idaho and abroad, Judge Bail is preparing for a short sabbatical before taking status as a Senior Judge - a title she intends to change to "Special Ops Judge," since she lightheartedly says the nature of the work is specifically for "us highly trained operatives who just go in for targeted cases."

Judge Bail would like to extend her gratitude to her family, wonderful staff, the talented and skilled drug team, colleagues past and present and the many fine members of the Idaho State Bar that she has had the opportunity to work with.





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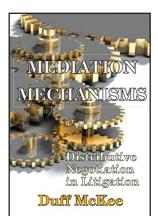
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The law firm Marcus, Hardee, Piñol & Davies, LLP is proud to announce that Jake Hardee has joined the firm as an associate attorney. Jake is the son of Dan Hardee and nephew of Greg Hardee and has been working at the firm since 2018. Jake grew up in Boise, Idaho, and graduated from Bishop Kelly High School in 2010. He was a walk-on at the Boise State University football team from 2010-2015 where he ultimately earned a scholarship and competed in forty-five games for the Broncos. Jake recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Idaho College of Law in December of 2020 and passed the February Idaho Bar Exam. Jake will be working in all areas of family law.



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# **Distinguished Jurist**

The Honorable Deborah A. Bail

# **Outstanding Young Lawyer**

T. Matthew Wolfe, II

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Kevin S. Borger Nicole C. Hancock Leslie M. Hayes Edith L. Pacillo Nick A. Warden

# **Professionalism Awards**

Erika Birch Murray D. Feldman Pamela S. Howard

# **Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Awards**

IDAHO STATE BAR
Fourth District Bar
Association

John M. Cross Christine M. Salmi Teague I. Donahey Bryan W. Hall Susan R. Pierson 2

0

2

1



Photos courtesy of Matt Wolfe.

# T. Matthew Wolfe, Ludwig Shoufler Miller Johnson, LLP

This year's Outstanding Young Lawyer, Matt Wolfe, is a Boise transplant and has moved around all over the globe serving our country as part of the National Guard. Matt was born and raised in Hopatcong, New Jersey, a small borough in Sussex County and joined the National Guard straight out of high school. After completing basic training, he was immediately deployed to Guantanamo Bay and recounts this as both a weird and interesting experience for a young 19-year-old kid.

Matt spent the next 10 years working as a contractor for the military, which took him all over the world, including Cuba, Kuwait, Hawaii, and Washington D.C. During this time, he completed his undergraduate education online through the American Military University and began entertaining a change in career trajectory. His goal was to find something a little more stable and conducive to long term



Matt and his twins, Atlas and Olympia.



Matt as an 18-year-old new Army recruit.

career building. Matt felt the legal profession would be a natural fit and a good transition, allowing him to utilize the research, writing, and briefing skills he had honed during his time in military service. He began looking for options on where to attend law school and after stumbling across an article online about Boise, Idaho, decided to relocate from the East Coast to attend Concordia University School of Law. Matt graduated with his law degree from Concordia in 2016 and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar that same year.

After receiving his law degree, Matt and his wife, Ashley, who he met during his second year of law school, moved back to the East Coast where he attended Boston University and received his LL.M. Hoping to begin his career back in Idaho - and avoid having to take the bar exam in another state - Matt began seeking out conversations with Idaho lawyers who had also received their LL.M. degrees. It was through this networking effort that Matt got connected with Tom Walker who offered him a job as an associate in his new Boise firm, Generations Law Group. Matt began working with Tom and remained at Generations Law Group until late last year.

In September 2020, Matt transitioned to the firm Ludwig Schoufler Miller Johnson, LLP where he continues to practice family law, estate planning, and probate. Matt considers both Tom Walker and Scott Ludwig among his professional role models and is grateful for the opportunity to learn from their expertise.

While balancing his workload, Matt is involved in several law related volunteer efforts. Encouraged by Tom Walker to get involved and continue networking, Matt ran for an open position as an officer for the Fourth District Bar Association and is now serving as Vice President. He is also the current CLE Chair of the Idaho State Bar Young Lawyer Section and serves as Chair of the Idaho Military Legal Alliance, a Bar-related entity providing free legal services for veterans across the state. The Idaho Military Legal Alliance is currently conducting a monthly phone clinic for veterans, and Matt would ask that any attorney interested in helping a veteran to please get in touch with him.

Continuing with this theme of getting involved and contributing to the local Bar community, Matt's advice to his younger self - and other young lawyers - is to set aside the hesitation to reach out, put yourself out there, or make new connections within the Bar. Matt mentions that Idaho attorneys are fortunate to be part of a Bar that is small enough that you can easily meet other attorneys in your practice area or from whom you would like to learn. He would also make sure to tell his younger self to buy Bitcoin, buy a lot of Bitcoin.

Matt and his wife, Ashley, have three children - a five-year-old and three-yearold twins. Matt enjoys woodworking, golf, and fantasy football, though he jokingly mentions that he does not have time for much in terms of hobbies with three little ones running around.

Matt notes that the hardest part of being a younger attorney is not having all the answers, even though your clients and judges require you to have all the answers. Clients pick your firm based on the collective experience of the firm, and you do not want to make your client second guess their decision by not having all the answers. However, you need to make sure you are giving you clients the best advice possible, which sometimes requires you to check with the partners of the firm.

The best part of being a younger attorney is getting to learn. You learn something new every day about the legal code, or the Bar, or some "unwritten rules" of practicing law. Plus, being a younger attorney sometimes gives you an upper hand in a case since you might look at a problem differently than an attorney that has been practicing for a while.

Matt would like to extend his gratitude to some of the many people that have helped him over the years: everyone in his Concordia Family, all the amazing people at the Bar, Tom Walker, Scot Ludwig, all support staff, and he would like to end by thanking his mom.

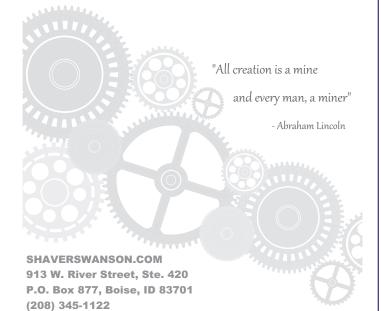


Matt's grandparents, Bernie and Dorothy. Jersey Shore natives.

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Top row from left to right: Erika Birch, Kimberlee Bratcher, Murray Feldman, and Michael Felton, Sr. Bottom row from left to right: Michael Howard, Pamela Howland, Sonyalee Nutsch, James Ruchti, and Steven Wright.

# **Professionalism Awards**

his year's Professionalism Award recipients have devoted their careers to the practice of law in a way that upholds the highest standards of civility and professionalism. Each of these individuals embodies a reputation of mutual respect and camaraderie with their colleagues. In addition to submitting biographical information, each recipient was asked to respond to the following questions:

First, what advice would you give your younger self as you entered your law practice?

And, what ideals or values do you let guide your professional life?

## Erika Birch, Boise

Advice: "Now that you have gotten your law degree and passed the bar you can start learning how to be a lawyer, so surround yourself with great mentors. Lawyering to me has always been about representing real people and helping them seek a resolution. It is hard to teach that in a classroom, so it is a learn-as-you-go process. Our clients come to us at one of, if not the, worst time in their life. Be patient. Be kind. Be understanding and empathetic. Then, be their voice, their counselor, and their advocate. And, if you can remember that the lawyer on the other side is usually just trying to do the same thing you are for their client, it should give you a solid grounding for a successful career."

Values: "Good work is hard work. It took me a long time to beat the perfectionist out of me (ok, it is not all the way gone). While perfection should not be the goal, I think there is value in working hard. Other attorneys, judges and your clients notice when you work hard to be prepared or put out your best work product. Passion, I am fortunate to do work I am passionate about. My passion for my work makes the

hard part worth it in the end. When you believe in your clients and their causes, the victories are not tied to "winning," but come from fighting a worthy fight. As Atticus Finch said to his children in To Kill a Mockingbird; 'It is when you know you are licked before you begin but you begin anyway, and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do."

Erika is a partner of Strindberg Scholnick Birch Hallam Harstad Thorne, a small regional firm focusing on employment and labor law. Since graduating from University of Colorado School of Law in 2000, her primary focus has been litigating employment and civil rights claims. Erika moved to Boise in the fall of 2007 so she could open the firm's Boise office. She is the past Chair of the Idaho State Bar Labor and Employment Practice Section, a member of the Board of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association, and a member of the American Association for Justice,

National Employment Lawyer's Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the Idaho Women Lawyers. Erika was an honored recipient of ITLA's James May Trial Lawyer of the Year Award (2019) and the Walter H. Bithell Professionalism Award (2017), as well as the Diversity Section's Justice for All Award (2015). She has also received awards from the Idaho State Bar for her outstanding service (2014) and pro bono work (2013). She serves on various non-profit boards and law-related committees and has volunteered her time for pro bono clients at ITLA's Street Law Clinic. Erika is licensed in state and federal courts in Idaho and Utah.

## Kimberlee S. Bratcher, Caldwell

Advice: "Find a mentor. Watch as much court as you can. There will be attorneys who will grate on you, find a way to enjoy their presence as it will make your life so much easier. You can be kind to opposing counsel and still be a zealous advocate for your client."

Values: "I think it goes without saying that we need to be prepared, honest and ethical in all of our dealings, but kindness and collegiality are just as important. Give back. I am a scholarship kid. Warren McCain was the CEO of Albertsons and he and his wife set up a scholarship fund. They encouraged all of their recipients to pay it forward. Our profession gives us remarkable skills and advantages that can be used to help others."

Kimberlee is an Idaho native who grew up in Payette. She said, "I wanted to be an attorney from the time I was twelve years old. (I am not even sure why - we did not have lawyers in our circle of family and friends.) My undergrad degree is from the College of Idaho. After college, I worked in sales and marketing for four years. Although I was an adult when I received my law degree from the University of Idaho, I have been a Vandal since I was four. I interned for the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association where I met incredible, dynamic trial attorneys. After graduation, I clerked for the Hon. Sergio A Gutierrez in Canyon County. In 2001, I became a deputy prosecutor for Ada County and in 2007, I returned to Canyon County as a deputy prosecutor."

## Murray Feldman, Boise

Advice: "It is a marathon—both in the aggregate (your career) and individual (specific cases). There will be setbacks and obstacles along the way. Keep focused on the big picture and the end goal, and take care of your family, friends, and interests outside of—and larger than—the law. Help others get to where you are going too, just as others helped you at some point."

Values: "No one accomplishes anything alone'; as it says on the edge of the twopound coin in the United Kingdom, 'We are all Standing on the Shoulders of Giants'. At the same time, do not underestimate the power of what a single person can accomplish or change, especially when that person can encourage and be helped by others. Everyone has a story make sure you listen for it and listen to it. Particularly your client's story, but also your adversary's, your colleague's, and the court's. All of the participants have to work together at some level to ensure that the legal process—and profession—maintains relevance, is responsive, and keeps its role in our democratic society."

After completing a graduate degree from the University of Idaho's College of Forestry, Murray returned to the University of California, Berkeley (where he also did his undergraduate studies) for law school. Following a one-year clerkship with Justice George Lohr of the Colorado Supreme Court, Murray started as an associate with Holland & Hart in October 1989. Murray was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in April 1990. Murray always said (at least since law school) that he wanted to practice environmental and natural resources law, and he has been fortunate to be able to do that from the start, never foreseeing the broad range of matters and areas of the law-especially in an Idahobased practice—that it might encompass. That has been one of the richer parts of the experience. Everything from federal court litigation on the environmental analyses and effects for military airspace designations and training over 3.2 million acres of public land in southwestern Idaho to polar bear critical habitat designation in Alaska, other overflights cases in west Texas, challenges to a pipeline right-of-way beneath the Appalachian Trail in West Virginia,

climbing restrictions in Idaho's City of Rocks National Reserve, redesignation of Chinook salmon critical habitat, and development of a habitat conservation plan for the Great Lakes population of the piping plover. It has been a diverse and varied ride, thoroughly enjoyable, and continues to be so. Along the way, the Idaho State Bar, and especially the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Practice Section of the ISB that began during my time in practice, have been a great focal point for professional interaction and the exchange of ideas. Murray was privileged to be the chair of the ENR section at two different times, first in 2007-08 and again in 2019-20. It was wonderful to see in that stretch how a new generation of lawyers had stepped up to keep the section thriving and engaged. Outside of the law, Murray has been on the Idaho Humanities Council Board for nine years (two as Chair), which has supported many public humanities projects statewide. Through this all, Murray and his wife Nancy have lived in Boise, raising two sons—the oldest a Navy pilot currently stationed at Whidbey Island, Washington, and the youngest a solution engineer for a cybersecurity intelligence firm in the Washington, D.C. area, both of whom proudly consider Idaho as home.

## Michael H. Felton, Sr., Buhl

Advice: "If you had worked any harder you would probably not be here today it would have been better to have spent a bit more time with Judy and the children, Mike, Heather, and Donna!"

Values: "Helping people solve problems that are too much for them alone helps me justify being here. As between the hard way and the collegial way, I much prefer the latter."

Mike was born in Moscow on March 5, 1940, to Tom and Eleanor Felton. He graduated Moscow High School in 1958, University of Idaho in 1961 in accounting and in 1965 in law. By then his dad had moved from Moscow law office, Felton and Bielenberg, to the courthouse as a 2<sup>nd</sup> District Judge, and so it was time to look further afield.

Bill Hart from Buhl suggested that Mike should apply at Hepworth and Nungester. Mike's wife, Judy, had spent summers in Buhl with her grandparents, so the move was easy.

John Hepworth and Bill Nungester were excellent trial lawyers and after two years as Twin Falls County Prosecuting Attorney, it became clear to Mike that John and Bill were the ones to be with. In 1988, Mike became a solo practitioner and was very happy to be joined by his son, Michael Harland Felton, Jr. in 1992 to form Felton & Felton. Mike said, "Of Counsel at the ripe old age of 81!"

## Michael T. Howard, Coeur d'Alene

Advice: "Relax. When you are busy, enjoy knowing that it will not last forever. When you are not busy, take the time to enjoy yourself; the phone will ring again, and you will wish you had taken time when vou had it."

<u>Values</u>: "Play nicely in the sandbox. This job is difficult enough as it is. In the end, facts determine outcome; gamesmanship and sharp lawyering make little difference and only lead to premature greying. Take the time to answer the call and talk to the person with the case you do not want to take. They uniformly appreciate understanding why their case does not interest you, and doing so will ultimately save them time, as well as the next attorney they would have called."

Mike represents plaintiffs and defendants in complex general litigation, with an emphasis in the areas of personal injury, medical malpractice, product liability, construction defects, and insurance coverage disputes.

Mike obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in zoology with a chemistry minor from the University of Idaho in 1992, and his law degree from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1999. Mike served as a judicial law clerk for Idaho Supreme Court Justice Cathy Silak in 1999-2000 and has been in private practice since.

Mike has been inducted into two prominent trial organizations: the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), and the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA). Mike is also active in the legal community, having served as President of the Idaho State Bar, President of the First District Bar, and various other board positions.

Mike is licensed to practice in Washington and Idaho State and Federal Courts, and the Ninth Circuit.

## Pamela S. Howland, Boise

Advice: "My advice to my younger self would be to remember that the practice of law is like any other profession, it will come with lots of highs and lows and your focus and career path may change over time. There are so many opportunities as a lawyer, that there is something for everyone and as a young lawyer, you should not be afraid to try new things and mix it up from time to time. I would also tell myself to get involved in the Bar and to take the time to meet and build relationships with other Idaho lawyers. With my small firm practice now, I am always amazed at how often I interact with the lawyers I have met over the years and how even though Idaho is growing, our Bar is still small enough, that all our paths will cross repeatedly over the years. When my firm launched in 2016, I greatly appreciated the support from the attorneys I had met and worked with over the years, and it really drove it home for me how critical those relationships are to a successful practice."

Values: "I really value my commitment to try new things and to honor all the responsibilities that come with them. At Idaho Employment Lawyers, the team spends a lot of time talking about all the opportunities to try new and innovative things to assist employers with compliance issues. It is a lot of fun implementing new programs and services that differentiate us from other law firms. In fact, one of our core values is to be innovative and not to be like every other firm. As lawyers., there are endless opportunities out there to develop a fun and rewarding practice, so the longer I practice, the more I try to keep it fun and interesting. Along those same lines, being an active member of our small Idaho legal community, and building positive professional relationships within that community, is more important to me now than it has ever been."

Pam graduated from Gonzaga Law School in 2000 and did a clerkship at the Idaho Supreme Court for Justice Kidwell immediately following graduation. She joined Holland & Hart in 2001 and practiced there for sixteen years. In February 2016, she formed Idaho Employment Lawyers, a boutique employment defense firm dedicated to handling Idaho employment law issues.

Over the past twenty years, Pam has litigated cases in Idaho state and federal courts and have represented employers from around the country against claims encompassing a variety of employment laws, including claims of discrimination, harassment, non-compete, wrongful termination, FLSA, FMLA and the ADA.

In addition to Pam's employment litigation practice, she also regularly counsels employers on how to avoid litigation on topics related to discipline, termination, retaliation, internal policies and procedures, and evolving (and complex) laws such as the FLSA, ADA, and FMLA. Her firm conducts a wide range of training to assist employers and conducts workplace investigations, as well. Pam siad, "We do a lot of work with business owners, HR professionals, Executive Directors, and in-house counsel and enjoy helping businesses get the right employment law policies and procedures in place."

## Sonyalee R. Nutsch, Lewiston

Advice: "Keep your options open. You never know on what path your career will take you. It may be better than you could have ever imagined."

<u>Values</u>: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Ethics and civility are not optional, they are mandatory. Just because you can, does not mean you should."

Sonyalee was raised in southern Idaho, graduating from Jerome High School in 1993. She moved to Lewiston to attend Lewis-Clark State College where she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in justice studies in 1997. She then attended the University of Idaho, College of Law and graduated cum laude in 2000. She started her legal career with the Nez Perce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in 1999. In 2003, Sonvalee accepted an invitation from Michael McNichols to be personally mentored by him as an associate in the firm of Clements, Brown & Mc-Nichols, P.A. Sonyalee became a partner in the firm in 2006. Her current practice focuses on defense of business entities and their employees or insureds in a variety of cases. Sonyalee has been married to her high school sweetheart, Patrick, for the last 28 years. Her primary hobby is traveling, and she especially prefers international travel.

#### James D. Ruchti, Pocatello

Advice: "Above anything else, I value the people with whom I work. I learned early on that investing time and energy in building up a good support staff pays dividends for years to come in both productivity and simply enjoying going to work every day. When you treat your team with respect, fairness, and leave room for sense of humor in the day-to-day, everyone wins." Values: "Some things are just out of your control. You need to learn early to put your time towards the things you can control and do not worry about the things you cannot. It will make you happier, more relaxed, and better able to enjoy life."

James and his law partner, Joel Beck, own a thriving plaintiff litigation practice in Pocatello which serves clients throughout eastern and southeastern Idaho. He also serves as a State Representative for District 29 in Pocatello. James graduated from West Point in 1993 and served as a military intelligence officer in the U.S. Army from 1993-98. He then graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 2001. James was the President of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association from 2017-18 and continues to work today as a trial attorney. He and his wife Wendy have two sons, Spencer and Drew.

#### Steven J. Wright, Idaho Falls

Advice: "Even if your colleague is an adversary in a particular matter, there is much you can and should learn from him or her. While the demands of our profession can place us in occasionally difficult circumstances, our clients are better served when their representatives operate in an environment of mutual respect. Finally, when you make a mistake (and you will), acknowledge it so that you can move forward."

Values: "Although I had several years experience under my belt before returning to Idaho in 1996, I was fortunate to have my father, Roger Wright, become a mentor. I quickly realized there were many great attorneys in the area (recently departed Tim Hopkins also comes to mind) from whom I learned a great deal. Of course, it is critical for any successful attorney to serve with integrity. However, from their examples, I learned that genuinely great attorneys are also able to balance zealous advocacy with professionalism. Successfully or not, I have tried to emulate what I learned."

In 1990, Steve graduated magna cum laude with a J.D. from Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark School of Law after receiving a Bachelor of Science in business management. Prior to returning to Idaho in 1996, Steve practiced in Houston, Texas with the international firm of Vinson & Elkins, LLP.

Steve's practice emphasizes estate planning and meeting the needs of business owners and employers. Helping families pass on their business, ranch or farm to the next generation is a particular emphasis of his practice. He is experienced in counseling clients, transactional work, and litigation and has represented clients in matters of all sizes.

Steve has been appointed by the State of Idaho as Special Deputy Attorney General to help single, indigent parents obtain child support from non-custodial parents. Additionally, he served from 2004 to 2010 as chairperson for a panel appointed by the Idaho Board of Medicine to review medical malpractice claims.

Steve is a former president of the Idaho State Bar's Seventh District Bar Association. He also taught mass media law at Brigham Young University - Idaho from 2006 to 2009.

Steve previously served on the southeast Idaho leadership committee for the Greater Idaho Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. He has also served as a board member for nonprofit entities promoting education, serving the needs of individuals with disabilities, and economic development through film, music and entertainment.

Steve and his wife, Julie, are the proud parents of two daughters and four sons. They are also the proud grandparents of six beautiful granddaughters.





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Top row from left to right: Jacob Allington, John Cross, Jr., Teague Donahey, Bryan Hall, and Edward Lawson. Bottom row from left to right: Jessica Long, Kristopher Meek Susan Pierson, Christine Salmi, Thomas Smith, and Cody Specht.

## **Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Awards**

he late Denise O'Donnell Day, and namesake of this award, was a titan of pro bono service to underrepresented Idahoans. Her legacy of service, dedication to her community, and overall standard of professionalism in practice are pillars for any member of the Idaho State Bar to aspire to. Each year, we honor Denise's legacy by awarding attorneys in each judicial district with the Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Award, recognizing their admirable decisions to prioritize pro bono service in their practices. In addition to providing biographical information, this year's recipients were asked the following two questions:

First, why is pro bono work important

And, what advice would you give your younger self as you entered your law practice?

#### Jacob R. Allington, Coeur d'Alene

Why Pro Bono: "Doing pro bono work is important to me, primarily because there is a crisis in the civil arena, especially regarding the ability of individuals of lesser means to obtain legal services they desperately need and cannot afford. And while I understand the basis for pro se litigants being treated, in all respects akin to licensed attorneys, even incredibly sophisticated pro se litigants usually do not have the time, resources, or specialized knowledge necessary to competently handle their cases and navigate the complex, rigid and frustrating legal system. Unfortunately, traditional billing models of hefty, up-front retainers coupled with steep hourly rates and no clear limits for

either the client or the attorney persist. Moreover, the legal profession remains largely resistant – and not without legitimate reasons - to the 'unbundling' of legal services. Ultimately, now more than ever, access to justice is a right reserved for the wealthy. Until there are fundamental changes to the legal system and practice of law, I believe attorneys have a responsibility, to the extent they are able given the extraordinary demands of this profession to assist the disenfranchised through public service of some kind."

Advice: "My advice would simply be to approach the practice of law in a way that aligns with one's values and betters the profession."

Jacob studied economics and philosophy at the University of Montana Davidson Honors College, graduating summa cum laude in 2011. He attended law school

at the University of Montana School of Law. During his third year of law school, he assisted low-income clients with a range of legal issues as a clinical intern for Montana Legal Services in Missoula, Montana. He relocated to northern Idaho in 2016 where he practices family law.

#### John M. Cross Jr., Oquossoc, ME

Why Pro Bono: "Work with Idaho Legal Aid Services after private practice showed me the huge, unmet need for legal help to lower-income Idahoans, especially with family issues and very often involving violence."

Advice: "One should combine preparation with patience and civility. Add a fair amount of stubbornness, which generally works better than aggressiveness, and mix in a sense of humor and great respect for all court personnel."

John graduated from Vermont Law School in 1979 and was admitted in Colorado in 1980 where he began a solo practice. John was admitted into the Idaho State Bar in 1998 and began working for Idaho Legal Aid where he worked on family cases involving domestic violence. John has been handling pro bono cases since

#### Teague I. Donahey, Boise

Why Pro Bono: "In my ordinary day to day career, I am an intellectual property litigation attorney, which can be dry and intellectual. Pro bono work gives me an opportunity to use my skills to impact people's personal lives in a more direct and personal way, which is meaningful to me."

Advice: "Seek out new opportunities and take risks. It is the only way to grow."

Teague has a B.A. in political science from Amherst College and a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School. He was originally admitted to the State Bar of California in 1998 and practiced intellectual property law at several

large law firms in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2015, he and his family moved to Boise and he joined Holland & Hart. Today he is a partner practicing primarily in the field of intellectual property litigation.

#### Bryan W. Hall, Boise

Why Pro Bono: "I have been very fortunate throughout my life, and when I interpret that through the lens of my faith in God, it just means I am here to help others, particularly those without power in our society.

Advice: "Your instincts are good, and you'll be most helpful to others as you trust them."

Bryan currently serves as the Chief Operations Officer and General Counsel of AmeriBen, a third-party claims administrator and human resource consulting company headquartered in Meridian,

Prior to joining AmeriBen in 2015, Bryan served as a JAG officer in the Unit-



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ed Sates Air Force for ten years. Bryan worked for five of those years as a prosecutor in Washington, D.C. and at McChord Air Force Base in Washington State. He then worked for two years as a civil litigation attorney for Air Force Headquarters at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, and then three years as the medical-legal consultant for Pacific Air Force, based in Anchorage, Alaska. During Bryan's Air Force service, he also deployed to Iraq as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and worked as a legal liaison for the detainees held in custody by the Multi-National Coalition.

Bryan received a bachelor's degree in English literature from Brigham Young University (BYU) in 2002, and a Juris Doctorate from BYU's J. Reuben Clark Law School in 2005.

Bryan lives in Meridian with his wife, Brittany and their four kids. He enjoys doing anything with his family, volunteering in the community and his church, reading books, running, and making frequent visits to local bakeries.

#### **Edward A. Lawson, Ketchum**

Why Pro Bono: "Often it means providing legal services to those in the greatest need which also serves the public interest." Advice: "Never forget where you came

Ed graduated from Hastings College of Law, University of California in 1975. After practicing in San Francisco for a short time, he settled in Ketchum where his practice focuses on real estate, business, banking/finance, and litigation. Ed is a member of the Wood River Community YMCA Board of Directors and enjoys skiing, golfing, and fly fishing.

#### Jessica M. Long, Moscow

Why Pro Bono: "I've had the advantage of being part of a middle-class family. We

were not rich, but we were comfortable. When I was younger, my mom and I used to visit San Francisco, and I would see so many people on the streets struggling with mental health issues, substance abuse issues and poverty. I recognized that with my education and training, I can help others, to make a difference in someone else's life. Pro bono work is an important way for me to give back to others in my community. The legal process can be confusing and scary; as lawyers, we can provide information, advice, and assistance to make the process easier to manage. That is a huge gift to be able to give someone." **Advice:** "Be patient and kind to yourself. You will always be nervous when you go to court, you will never know all the answers, you will always be learning and growing as a lawyer. That is why it is called the practice of law. And be sure to ask the court clerks questions - they know everything!"

Jessica grew up in California and graduated from the University of Colorado in



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Boulder in 2000. She started her practice with a small family law firm in Cheyenne, Wyoming before moving to Madison, Wisconsin where she worked for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Office of Lawyer Regulation and Madison City Attorney's Office. Jessica and her family moved to Moscow, Idaho where she began teaching as an adjunct professor at the University of Idaho College of Law in 2010. She began working full-time for the College of Law in 2012 and is now the Director of Clinical Programs and the supervising attorney for the Main Street Law Clinic, which specializes in the practice of family law. She also teaches Lawyering Process and runs the Trial Advocacy Program. Jessica enjoys spending time with her family mountain biking, camping and disc golfing.

#### Kristopher Meek, Idaho Falls

Why Pro Bono: "Pro bono is the heart of being a lawyer. On September 28, 2006, I took the Attorney's Oath. I took that oath seriously and strive to follow it today. In that oath I promised to 'never reject, for any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or oppressed.' That does not mean that I take every pro bono case that walks in my door, but I do my best to help those that need legal help because it is the right thing to do within the honorable profession of the law."

Advice: "Stay true to the oath you swore to when you became a lawyer. It will guide you when you have tough decisions to make."

Kris graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 2006.

#### Susan R. Pierson, Boise

Why Pro Bono: "Pro bono work is important to me because low-income people at risk of losing their children, their housing, or their income, deserve legal representation. Attorneys are the only ones qualified to provide representation and it is ethically required that we all do our part."

**Advice:** "Make time for pro bono work. As a young lawyer I worked too many hours on cases for the most privileged and not nearly enough on cases for people who needed legal help but could not afford it. There is a great satisfaction in using your skills to serve those who really need them."

Sue graduated from Princeton University and the University of Maryland School of Law. She spent her early career working for large law firms in Philadelphia and Denver. She was admitted to the Idaho Bar in 2012. After working a few years at a litigation firm, she took a job with the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, where she works with an amazing team dedicated to increasing access to justice in Idaho.

#### Christine M. Salmi, Boise

Why Pro Bono: "So many people's lives are affected in significant, life altering ways by our state and federal laws. I feel it is my obligation (and privilege) to use my law degree and legal experience to help those who cannot help themselves, especially those for whom the legal obstacles are great and who have the most to lose if their legal interests are not protected."

Advice: "Surround yourself with good people who challenge you to think big and outside the box, and who are not afraid to take the road less traveled."

Christine is a Deputy Attorney General in the State of Idaho Office of the Attorney General's civil litigation division. Prior to joining the Attorney General's office, Christine spent nearly two decades in private practice as an attorney with Perkins Coie, LLP in its Boise office. During her tenure with Perkins Coie, Christine most recently served as Senior Counsel in charge of leading the Boise office's commercial litigation group. She specialized in complex real estate and products liability litigation, insurance and commercial construction matters, employment litigation and civil appellate matters, both at the state and federal level. She also dedicated hundreds of pro bono hours over the last 20 years representing court-appointed guardians ad litem in child protection cases. She has also represented pro bono clients in appeals before the United States Supreme Court and the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Recently, Christine completed her three-year term as the Ninth Circuit Appellate Lawyer Representative for the

District of Idaho, after which she also served as a member of the Ninth Circuit Law Clerk Resources Group. She is a cofounder and former chair of the Idaho State Bar's Appellate Practice Section and a co-editor/publisher of the Idaho Appellate Handbook (2015). Following graduation from the University of Idaho College of Law, she served a two-year clerkship with former Chief Justice Gerald Schroeder with the Idaho Supreme Court and later a two-year clerkship with former U.S. Magistrate Judge Larry Boyle of the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho.

#### Thomas D. Smith, Pocatello

Why Pro Bono: "I enjoy helping CASA with child protection cases because I get to advocate for children who have been let down by the adults in their lives."

Advice: "I would remind myself that work pays the bills, but it is only one of several factors needed to live a happy life."

Tom graduated from the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah in 2009 after working several years in law enforcement. Tom has been a member of Service & Spinner in Pocatello since January of 2016. His practice focuses on bankruptcy, guardianships and conservatorships, estate planning, and probate. Tom has served on the Professional Conduct Board with the Idaho State Bar since 2010.

#### Cody Specht, Nampa

Why Pro Bono: "Everyone wants to live in a better community and that starts with each person trying to improve their community. Pro bono work is my way of building a better community. It starts with individuals."

Advice: "Focus on doing good work and the rest will follow."

Cody attended the University of Idaho College of Law on a last-minute idea to maximize his GI Bill. He was admitted to the Bar in May of 2017. Since then, he has done a variety of law from public defense to family law work.



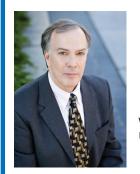
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Top row from left to right: Kevin Borger, Hon. Gregory Culet, Nicole Hancock, Latonia Haney Keith, and Leslie Hayes. Bottom row from left to right: Melissa Luna, Edith Pacillo, Steve Robertson, Amanda Ulrich, Nick Warden, and Dr. Dennis Woody

#### Service Awards

■ he individuals selected for this year's Service Awards include attorneys and non-attorneys alike who have committed their time and expertise to the service of the legal profession. Whether it is serving in leadership or in a more intimate setting, these individuals are dedicated to the betterment of the profession. In addition to providing biographical information, the recipients were asked to answer the following two questions:

First, what advice would you give your younger self as you entered your law prac-

And, what ideals or values do you let guide your professional life?

#### Kevin S. Borger, Boise

Advice: "I have met exactly one lawyer who accepted a job out of law school and then retired from that same job after a long career. It is very difficult to know exactly where our talents lie when we have not had the opportunity to test them out. Go into that first job with eyes wide open to opportunities within and without. And do so with a backup plan. The law is a business, and the employer is not going to worry about your ability to care for your family. That is your job. Find the type of job you love and be the best that you can be. Do not sacrifice lifestyle for a bigger paycheck. It is not a satisfying trade-off." Values: "Society is unable to function without each person doing their part. We are all given gifts in different areas, and it is up to us to use those gifts to the fullest. There will be times when we get paid simply for using our gifts; however, there may be other times when our gifts are needed by those unable to pay. I have found that giving of my time and talent to those in need is far more gratifying than using those same talents just to earn a paycheck.

It is also true that our time is a very important commodity and there are many within our profession who need someone just to spend some time with them to listen to what is going on without offering judgment or even a solution."

Kevin attended law school at Washburn University of Topeka School of Law in Topeka, Kansas and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1986. He spent the first 5 years of his career at a small law firm in Boise and as a sole practitioner. Kevin then began working for the Boise City Attorney's Office in 1991 where he spent the next 30 years before retiring in May of 2021. While with the City of Boise, Kevin had the privilege of representing the citizens of Boise in over 100 jury trials, both civil and criminal. Kevin drafted several noteworthy ordinances that were of interest to the public with the most notable resulting in a trial in Federal District Court. Negotiation on behalf of management with both the police and fire unions to come to terms on a collective labor agreement was also a very gratifying task he was fortunate enough to partake in. Kevin also provided training to the Boise Police Department and worked closely with the Meridian Police Department who the City of Boise had a contract with. While performing these tasks, Kevin represented many other departments within the city at one time or another, spent time as the supervisor over the criminal division, and then later as a Team Leader when the civil and criminal divisions were integrated for a time.

#### Hon. Gregory M. Culet, Nampa

Advice: "Plan for retirement. When it finally arrives, it is a cool adventure!"

Values: "I realized early on that while serving my community on a personal and professional level was an obligation, it was also very fulfilling. I never lost site of the fact that I was lucky to engage in a profession that offered significant personal and professional challenges and rewards, was incredibly interesting, and that I also enjoyed. At the same time, I realized that the Idaho court/legal system has a tremendous impact on the lives and wellbeing of not just the litigants and those who are directly impacted by our proceedings, but also on our communities, as well as on members of the legal profession. It has been incredibly rewarding to see the positive improvements to our legal system through the collaborative efforts of members of the bench, bar, and other disciplines over the last 40 years. Examples include problem solving courts, civil and criminal mediation, and the Lawyer Assistance Program, just to name a few."

Judge Culet attended the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1978. He retired, having served over 31 years on the Idaho Judiciary: 21 years as a Magistrate Judge, chambered in Washington County and 10 years a District Judge, chambered in Canyon County, and served as an Administrative District Judge in the Third District, for three years.

Judge Culet served as President of the Idaho Magistrate Judges Association as well as several Idaho Supreme Court committees, including Children and Families in the Courts Committee (Co-chair), Juvenile Rules Committee (Chair), Judicial Education Committee, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee, and Treatment Court Committee. He served on the Idaho State Bar's Lawyer Assistance Program Committee and the Steering Committee of the Idaho Academy of Leadership for

Judge Culet worked on several multidisciplinary committees: the Early Childhood Coordinating Council, the Idaho Network for Children (Chair), and the Early Learning and Cross Systems Task Force (Co-Chair).

Judge Culet coached Little League Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, and Little League Softball, and directed community theater. He is married with two children and four grandchildren/mentors (who help him understand modern digital technology).

#### Nicole Hancock, Boise

Advice: "Be patient, be kind, be strong and always professional. Idaho is unique with the level of professionalism and intellect in our bar - we have smart attorneys who can be strong advocates, but who also have high standards of professionalism. Be part of the future and protect the integrity of our bar. Learn from those who are the most experienced in our bar because they will move on quicker than you will realize."

Values: "I love practicing law and the community of professionals we have in our bar. Volunteering with our bar allows me to connect with other professionals in a variety of practices and with diverse backgrounds and experiences - I learn from them, I make great friends who are committed to the practice of law and most of all, it is a way to help ensure our bar maintains its high-quality standards."

Nicole is a partner of Stoel Rives LLP, member of the firm's Executive Committee and former Boise office managing partner. Nicole is a business-savvy trial attorney who has successfully first-chaired trials in federal and state courts, arbitration, and regulatory actions ranging from

high-stakes litigation to smaller matters that have an impact on her clients' businesses. Nicole previously worked as corporate counsel for a global seed company, and with this experience continues to serve the food and agribusiness industry working with processing, manufacturing, and other agriculture companies as well as entities in the beer and wine manufacturing and distribution industry. Nicole has been Included in The Best Lawyers in America© and "Women in the Law" for Agriculture Law since 2017 and ranked in Chambers USA in Litigation: General Commercial since 2011.

#### Latonia Haney Keith, Caldwell

Advice: "Always strive be an audacious leader by not being afraid to try something new and to act in the face of what appears to be an insurmountable challenge."

Values: "Despite my parents growing up socio-economically disadvantaged environments, and as a bi-racial couple, raising a family in a culturally challenging environment, I have had the great fortune, in light of the support of my family and many mentors along the way, to have thrived both professionally and personally. As I recognize the incredible privilege that I possess, it is important to me to pay tribute to those who paved the way for my success by giving back to my community, and serving marginalized and under-resourced Idahoans."

Latonia currently serves on the senior leadership team of the College of Idaho as Vice President of High Impact Practices. Through this role, Latonia is responsible for creating and implementing an innovative new program that blurs the lines between college and careers.

Latonia joined the College of Idaho from Concordia University School of Law where she served most recently as Interim Dean and Associate Dean of Academics. She originally joined the faculty of Concordia Law as the Director of Clinical Education in 2015 (and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar the same year). In this role, she directed Concordia Law's clinical education program, teaching law students the practice of law through the representation of disadvantaged and underserved populations in housing, criminal, and immigration matters.

Prior to joining Concordia Law, Latonia spent nearly seven years running a world-wide pro bono practice at a large law firm based in Chicago. After graduating from Harvard Law School, where she was a research assistant to Professor Laurence H. Tribe and Professor Charles Ogletree and an editor of and symposium co-chair for the Harvard Law Review, Vice President Haney Keith clerked for the Honorable Judith Ann Wilson Rogers on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

In March 2020, Latonia was confirmed by City Council as a Commissioner of the Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC), the redevelopment and urban renewal agency for Boise, Idaho. She has served as a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and the Executive Committee of the American Bar Association Section of Business Law's Committee on Pro Bono and currently serves on the Legal Advisory Council for the Fair Punishment Project and on the Local Rules Committee of the U.S. Courts of the District of Idaho. Latonia also regularly conducts trainings on recognizing and reducing implicit biases, discrimination, and harassment in the legal profession.

#### Leslie M. Hayes, Boise

Advice: "There is no mold for the perfect lawyer and your style needs to work with your personality. Do not forget to be yourself."

Values: "From a personal perspective, I enjoy volunteering and helping others. I also strive to be a strong role model to my children and show them the importance of giving back to your community. I was recently able to take my Girl Scout Daisy troop to City Hall to lead the pledge of allegiance at the first in-person meeting since COVID-19. Without a troop leader, those young women (and their mothers!) may not have had that amazing opportunity. From a professional perspective, my career is in public service and with that

comes the desire to serve the bar and its members."

Leslie is a Deputy Attorney General with the office's Civil Litigation Division and has been with the office since 2012. She has twelve years of litigation experience and spent two years clerking for the Honorable Warren Jones of the Idaho Supreme Court. Leslie currently represents the Idaho Department of Human Resources and litigates constitutional claims brought against state officials and employees. She previously spent five years representing the State Department of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. During her career she has represented clients in all Idaho state courts, the United States District Court for the District of Idaho, the Western District of Washington, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. She has extensive experience in dealing with state and federal administrative agencies, including the Idaho Personnel Commission, the Idaho Human Rights Commission, the Charitable Gaming Division of the Idaho Lottery, the Idaho Board of Vet-

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**Knotts** 

erinary Medicine, PERSI, the EEOC, and the Office of Civil Rights.

Leslie attended the University of Portland where she graduated with a bachelor's in business administration with an emphasis on finance and global business. She then went on to attend Gonzaga University School of Law, graduating cum laude.

#### Melissa Luna. Moscow

Advice: "I graduated from law school at the age of 30, after trying out another career path, and I find this career puts my strengths to good use. I would advise my younger self to stay open to new areas of legal practice because there are many opportunities to learn and grow in the law. I would also advise my younger self to embrace entrepreneurship sooner rather than later."

Values: "Serving the community is a priority to me because I believe that knowledge, talent, and good fortune should be shared with others. It has been especially important to me to bring my perspective as a small town and rural county practitioner to Idaho State Bar sections and committees. As we all know involvement in legal conflicts is taxing; I find volunteering with community organizations to be restoring."

Melissa was born and raised in Los Angeles County, California. She attended Whittier College (go Poets!) where she majored in sociology and comparative cultures, with a minor in Spanish, and graduated magna cum laude. She earned advanced degrees in sociology from New York University (where she met her Idaho-raised spouse) and higher education administration from Ohio University. Melissa is a graduate of Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon.

Melissa was admitted to practice law in Idaho and Ohio in 2005. She has practiced criminal, family, employment, estate administration law, as well as other civil matters. She has held positions conduct-

ing discrimination and harassment investigations and trainings for educational institutions, and has served as an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator. Melissa joined Landeck & Forseth P.C., now Landeck | Forseth | Luna, Attorneys at Law, in 2015 and became a shareholder in 2019.

#### Edith L. Pacillo. Boise

Advice: "Do not hesitate to ask questions. Do not wait to be asked to get involved just jump in."

Values: "It is incredibly rewarding to work with others in the common cause of improving our community and our profession."

Edith is an Associate General Counsel at the University of Idaho. Prior to that, she was a Lead Deputy Attorney General at the Idaho Office of the Attorney General, and an Assistant Attorney General in New Hampshire. Edith also practiced in



the private sector for several years, where she represented government agencies and private clients in business and financial transactions. She served as a law clerk for the Honorable Karen L. Lansing, Idaho Court of Appeals. She is a graduate of Temple University, Suffolk University Law School, and completed her third year of law school as a visiting law student at Arizona State University. She is a co-founder and active member of Attorneys for Civic Education.

#### Steve Robertson, Boise

Advice: "Get clear on what your unique talents and strengths are so that you can find organizations and roles that will allow you to leverage these fully."

Values: "I believe all people should have the opportunity to realize their full potential and live lives of meaning and connection. I am drawn to organizations like Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers that can help multiply that effect within the organizations that our IALL participants serve and in the broader community where they live and work."

Steve attended Santa Clara University School of Law and began his legal career in 1995 doing business and intellectual property litigation. Later, he moved in house with Hewlett-Packard where he counseled various business units and supported contract negotiations in their global supply chain and contract manufacturing. Because Steve had a teaching background (and because of a big organizational need) he had the opportunity to lead training, coaching, and mentoring for his clients. Eventually, one of his business clients recruited him out of the legal department to help launch, and then lead, a global organization development function and his new career in talent development and HR was born.

#### Amanda E. Ulrich, Idaho Falls

Advice: "Be kind to yourself, and just do you. This job is hard, and there is no reason to beat yourself up over every little thing. Be yourself and do not let anyone tell you that kindness in this profession is

a weakness. Kindness is a strength and allows you to connect with people. Do not shy away from it and do not feel conflicted about being kind even in difficult circum-

Values: "Serving the community is a priority for me because my life has been so enriched by others who have served. Countless school volunteers, coaches, musicians, and others who dedicated their time to service organizations helped me to become who I am today. I feel compelled to ensure others have that same support and opportunity made possible by community service."

Amanda is a proud 2008 graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law and a member of Casperson Ulrich Dustin, a boutique employment law firm. Amanda is the recent past president of the Seventh District Bar Association, served on the Law Advisory Council for the University of Idaho College of Law, served as the 7th Judicial District CASA Board legal advisor, and was past board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Idaho. She also handles pro bono cases for CASA and has presented numerous times on employment law for continuing legal education programs.

#### Nicholas A. Warden, Boise

Advice: "A legal career is a long career. Be patient. Be courteous. Be kind. Be resilient. Stay focused and engaged. Push yourself to improve every day. Work hard to ensure that in every relationship the value of your contribution exceeds the value of that which you receive."

Values: "Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, 'He who is greatest among you shall be your servant.' Public service nourishes heart and soul. It is thus my abiding belief that public service is essential to both personal and professional well-being."

I dedicate time to the Idaho State Bar because I value the services the Bar provides and because I see participation in the Bar as a vehicle for giving back to the community we serve. Civic education outreach, Access to justice, continuing legal education of practitioners across Idaho, and fostering a sense of community among those who practice law in Idaho,

are all essential services provided by the Bar and I am honored to have had the opportunity to contribute to the provision of those services.

I also feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to practice law in Idaho and within the Fourth District. My practice brings me to jurisdictions throughout the country. The civility, collegiality, professionalism, and quality of the attorneys here exceeds that which I have experienced elsewhere. I love being a part of this community of practitioners and if I can meaningfully contribute to that community through service, I will."

Nick graduated from the UC Davis School of Law and was admitted to practice law in 2013. He has been fortunate to spend the duration of his career in Boise. Nick is currently an attorney with the firm Bailey & Glasser, LLP. In every case, his focus is exclusively on providing the highest quality of service to his clients. He believes in a creative and flexible approach designed to address the unique needs of each client and each case, and to identify which arguments are most likely to resonate with the jury or judge.

Nick's practice is predominated by commercial litigation in the agricultural industry, including employment litigation and complex business litigation. Prior to joining Bailey & Glasser, he was with the firm Andersen Schwartzman Woodard Dempsey, Nick spent approximately three years with the Civil Litigation Division of the Idaho Office of Attorney General and was an attorney with the law firm Fisher Rainey Hudson.

Nick has always valued public service and community involvement. He is a recipient of the Denise O-Donnell Day Pro Bono Services Award. Nick currently serves on the board of a local performing arts organization in Boise. He recently completed his tenure as an officer of the Fourth District Bar Association. Nick has taught classes whenever possible as adjunct faculty at Boise State University. He is also a graduate of the Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers program and a member of the local chapter of American Inns of Court.

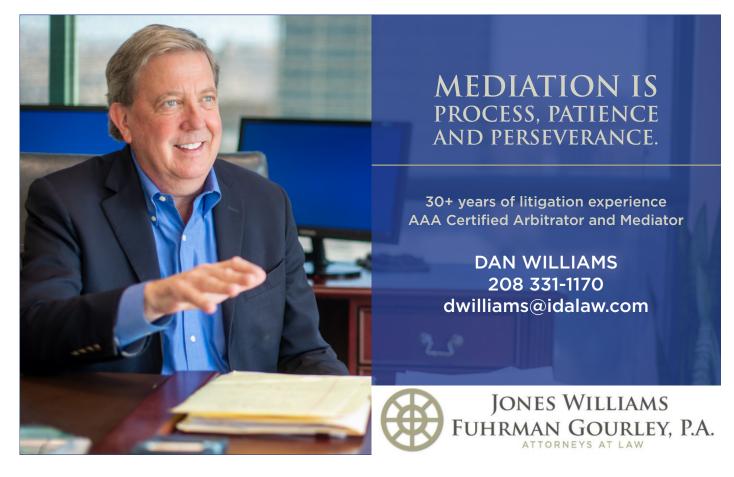
#### Dr. Dennis Woody, Boise

Advice: "I believe I would suggest an increased ability to allow for more patience with the process of change whether you're addressing behavior, emotions or even the larger systems that strive to meet the varying needs of people. Also, I would encourage the notion of mindfulness with respect to my own intentions and the impact my efforts might have with others."

Values: "Serving my community results from the appreciation I have for my role as a psychologist and my ability to contribute to the improvement of people's lives at a clinical level and at a systems level for service provision. This capacity is a function of the natural transition across a career of providing direct clinical services with patients to one wherein the changes are brought about through experience with the system of care vulnerabilities and its potential for improvement. Now, to be a psychologist working within a care management team that supports improvements in care through expanded accessibility and improved clinician skills, it affords me opportunities to make contributions through shared projects, professional relationships, and a willingness to try something different. This resonance with betterment and sustained effort is the very core of what we practice as psychologists. I am fortunate enough to be in a role to help make that happen within Idaho's system of care for persons challenged with behavioral health concerns."

Dr. Woody received a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education and child development from the University of Idaho (1977), as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology (1981) and a Master of Science degree in clinical psychology (1985) from the University of Montana. He then completed his doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Montana (1987). Immediately following his doctoral work and clinical internship with the United States Army, he completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at the University of Minnesota Schools and Hospital, in Minneapolis

Prior to joining Optum Idaho in 2013, Dr. Woody maintained a private pediatric neuropsychology practice focused on adolescents and children with brain injury sequelae, neurobehavioral problems, learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental issues beginning in 1990. In tandem with his private practice, Dr. Woody consulted for the State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare System and the Meridian/Boise Independent School Districts as a pediatric neuropsychologist. Dr. Woody also practiced at St. Luke's Hospital, the Mountain States Tumor Institute (Pediatrics) and Idaho Elk's Rehabilitation Hospital for approximately 20 years before joining Optum Idaho. Prior to these positions, Dr. Woody was the Director of Neuropsychology at the Rehabilitation Hospital of Baton Rouge and was a clinical staff member of the Neuro-Medical Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.





Chuck Blanton receiving his 60-year member recognition in 2011.

#### 70 Years of Admission: Admitted in 1951

#### J. Charles Blanton

Chuck was born the fourth of five children in 1926 to parents neither of whom had the equivalent of a full eight years of formal schooling. He attended twelve years of school in Nampa and began working during this time. After high school he went into the Navy for two years and was then stationed in the civilian type of fire department at the Naval Ordinance Test Station (NOTS) in California. While stationed at NOTS he began his lifetime hobby of oil painting. After discharge from the Navy, he enrolled at the University of Idaho in the accelerated legal course and began working as a smokejumper during the summers. As a smokejumper he was invited to participate in a documentary film "Telephone Creek" and played the principal role in a hunting documentary, "Lost Hunter". In 1949, he married Gladyne and in 1951 he graduated, and they moved to Boise where he worked weekends at Albertsons' and studied for the Bar exam. Chuck soloed his first year of practice until he became Deputy Prosecuting Attorney of Ada County serving under Blaine Evans after which he went into private practice with Randall Wallis. He served as director of the Idaho State Bar Foundation from 1959 to 1969. He also served as President of the Idaho Association of Defense Counsel, Boise Executive Association, Boise Estate Planning Coun-

cil and served as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Ada County. He has also served as Director and Chairman of the Board of the Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Hospital, Idaho Humane Society President and helped establish the United Way in Ada County. He chose law as a profession after several of his high school teachers recommended it and the GI Bill made it possible for him. He practiced law in Boise since 1951 with an emphasis on probate, trust, and estate planning. With his late wife Gladyne, he had four children. He enjoys time spent with family, doing oil painting, playing tennis, and sometimes writing poetry and spends his time between Boise, McCall, and Hawaii.

#### 65 Years of Admission: Admitted in 1956

#### Hon, Robert E. Bakes

Justice Bakes's major in college was

in history. Thankfully, his family members were lawyers and encouraged him to follow into the practice of law. His biggest influence on his life was his mother for the guidance in moral



and life values she provided. He advises young attorneys, "Don't jeopardize your career by taking shortcuts in your representations and in the courts". Justice Bakes served as a State and Federal Prosecutor then went on to the Idaho Supreme Court serving from 1971 until 1993 and time as Chief Justice from 1989 to 1993. After retirement he continued to practice arbitration and mediation with the Moffatt Thomas law firm. Now Justice Bakes enjoys his down time playing music and gardening as well as encouraging family

members to succeed in their educations and endeavors. He and his wife of sixtytwo years, Lurleen, have four children, fifteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

#### Bert L. Poole

Bert is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law.

#### 60 Years of Admission: Admitted in 1961

#### M. Neal Newhouse

When speaking of his 60 years of practice, Neal writes, "The practice was a joy. I loved the clients, and it was a great personal satisfaction to be able to help them." M. Neal Newhouse started with



Richards Haga & Eberle, served 3 years in the Air Force JAG Corps, then joined Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley where he practiced for 25 years. At age 50 he went back to school to receive his master's degree from Yale Law School. After Yale he was the Camas County Prosecuting Attorney, an elected but part-time position, for a couple of years and Ada County

Highway District General Counsel for five years. Neal mostly practiced as a solo attorney and retired at seventy. He speaks strongly against specialization for young attorneys and says, "One doesn't become a successful lawyer as a wall flower."

## 50 Years of Admission: Admitted in 1971

#### **Edward D. Ahrens**

Ed enjoys helping people. He is a

member of the Idaho State Bar Taxation, Probate & Trust Law Section, a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, a member of the Idaho Com-



munity Foundation, and former Law Advisory Council member for the University of Idaho College of Law. His civic activities range from membership in the Virginia Mason Hospital Foundation, to the advisory board of the Seattle Art Museum, and the capital campaign committee of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. Ed was the recipient of the ISB Distinguished Lawyer Award in 2019 and cites assisting clients as one of his most proud accomplishments. He is passionate about conservation stating that nature brings him great joy. He spends his time duck hunting, fishing, and foraging. Edward and his wife Teri have a daughter, Christina and two grandsons.

#### Michael M. Anderson

A graduate of University of Idaho College of Law, Michael and his wife Jeannie live in Montana.

#### G. Rich Andrus

Rich was raised on a farm in Ucon,

Idaho. He chose law after watching his father's involvement in the legislature and due to his own natural interests and aptitudes in law and public service.



Rich's career saw him practicing at many levels while trying cases before the Idaho Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has served on several Bar committees, on the board of governors of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association, as the President of the Seventh District Bar Association and in various positions and organizations in the community including as president of the Rexburg Rotary Club. Rich enjoys reading, writing of his experiences, singing with many groups, playing the guitar, hiking in the mountains, woodworking, and gardening. He and his wife of 54 years, Millie, have nine children and 27 grandchildren. His sons Reed and Richard are also lawyers.

#### **Dwight E. Baker**

Dwight was born in Wisconsin and

earned his BS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in 1963. He then continued his education earning a B.Ed. in 1964 from the University



of Wisconsin-Platteville and his JD from the University of Idaho in 1971 where he served on the Law Review. Dwight was in private practice in Blackfoot until 1980 when he joined the firm of St. Clair & Hiller where he practiced primarily in insurance defense and medical malpractice until 1988. He represented the 6th and 7th Districts as an Idaho State Bar Commissioner from 2006-2009 serving as Bar President during that time. He received the ISB Distinguished Lawyer Award in

2013 and the Professionalism Award in 1997. Currently, he is a partner in the firm of Baker & Harris in Blackfoot, Idaho and has tried over 20 cases to jury verdict. Dwight and his wife Ali live in Blackfoot.

#### Ray Barker

Ray received his undergraduate degree from the University of Idaho in economics; however when a high school friend started law school, he thought he would give that a chance. He served in the military for six years practicing law during court martials which he stated were simple and interesting, and leaving the military made things difficult as he had to speak with clients concerning attorney's fees. When he left the military, Ray went into private practice with Allen Bowles citing his classmate and good friend as having the largest influence on his career. Ray served as the president of the Criminal Law and Bankruptcy Section and practiced in criminal & bankruptcy law. He is very proud of having handled many very interesting criminal cases prior to his retirement last year. He loves to hunt and fish as well as road trips with his best friend, a retired judge from Washington. They have an upcoming road trip to Canada. Ray is passionate about his family and has two sons and two granddaughters, one who will start at U of I this fall.

#### Allen V. Bowles

Allen is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law. Allen and his wife Donna live in Moscow.

#### John Michael Brassey

Mike originally went into the prac-

tice seeing it as one of the great intellectual disciplines and to enhance his intellectual abilities. He adds, "The people I have met and the people with whom I



have worked, have added immeasurably to that initial goal". A lifelong Idaho resident, Mike has served in many capacities throughout his career. He is a past Chairman of the ISB Business and Corporate Law Section and has served as Deputy Attorney General, Division Chief, Business Regulation Division, Director of the Idaho Department of Insurance, Deputy Director of the Idaho Department of Finance and as the Administrator of the Division of Financial Management. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Idaho Personnel Commission and as one of the Idaho's Uniform Law Commissioners. Mike is a past Chairman of the Business and Corporate Law Section. He is an avid golfer, bird hunter and fly fisherman.

#### Charles P. Brumbach

Charles is a graduate of University of Akron, Charles and his wife Cheryl live in Rochester, Minnesota.

#### D. Blair Clark

Blair wanted to be an attorney from

the time he was about ten years old and never really considered anything else. He graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and cites Boise attor-



ney Gene Anderson as one of his greatest influences. When after high school Blair received two offers from firms, he asked Gene which he should take and the answer he received was "Neither one. You should work for me". Blair states that he is most proud of his outlook in wanting to leave his clients as much better as he can than when he first encountered them. He finds joy in time with his family which includes his office family who have mostly been with him for over 20 years. Blair has been a proud Mason since 1974 and was a Masonic boy's youth group advisor for many years. He and his wife of 52 years, Anne, have a daughter Mary Beth who is Blair's paralegal, and a foster son and grandson as well as many 'adoptive' children across the country from his work as a youth advisor. Blair was the President of the Master National Retriever Club in 1997. He and Anne enjoy breeding and showing Labradors and Chesapeakes.

#### Jonathan W. Cottrell

Jonathan is a graduate of University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, Jonathan and his wife Joanne live in Sandpoint.

#### John F. Croner

John is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law.

#### **Charles W. Fawcett**

Chuck's best friend had attended law school a year ahead of him and convinced him that being a lawyer would probably suit him better than being a professor. Having been born and raised in



California, by the time he finished law school he was ready for a change. He accepted a job with Legal Aid in Lewiston and states it was one of the best decisions of his life. Chuck cites Rick Skinner, his partner, for having the largest influence on his career, "He is the finest attorney in our profession". He counsels new attorneys to, "Keep your word and maintain civility". Chuck enjoys rock collecting and lapidary work, travel, gardening and reading. He and his wife Kit have four children and nine grandchildren. His son Ryan Fawcett is an Idaho attorney.

#### Gary A. Finney

Gary was born and raised on a farm in Sandpoint, Idaho, Gary wanted to be a farmer and have livestock. His father, a farmer himself, told him he should become a lawyer or a doctor to be able to afford it. Gary enrolled at the University of Idaho in the "Pre-law" 3+3 program, obtained his juris doctorate in 1971 and went to work in Sandpoint with Steve Bistline. His early career included serving as the Bonner County Prosecuting Attorney as well as having a general civil practice. Both of Gary's sons, John and Rex, followed his lead and graduated from the

University of Idaho College of Law and joined him in practice in Sandpoint. His grandson, Adam, has also graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law this May 2021 and plans to join the family practice. Gary's advice to young attorneys is to pick a place you want to live in and to seek out experienced attorneys to give you advice. Gary enjoys his farm and ranch, raising hay crops and raising and showing registered Percheron Draft Horses. Gary also enjoys all the aspects of the north Idaho lifestyle, from summer farming, Harley-Davidson riding and off-roading, to fall firewood cutting, hunting, and pack trips, to winter skiing and snowmobiling.

#### **Howard R. Foley**

Having had great success as an un-

dergraduate, Howard welcomed the challenge of law school. After graduation he was fortunate to intern for 🎚 Reginald Reeves in Idaho Falls where he learned a



great deal, "He was kind, patient and willing to teach". One of his greatest professional achievements was as an army JAG officer trying a case of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder, solo, within his first two years out from law school. Howard served on the board of the Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section and as president in 2008-2009. He received the ISB Professionalism Award in 2011. Howard is proudly involved with his fraternity and the Vandal Scholarship Fund. He enjoys gardening, big game and bird hunting as well as time with his friends and family. He and his wife Teresa Lynn have two sons and five grandchildren. His son Joshua Foley is also an attorney.

#### Mark S. Geston

Mark thought that the practice of law

seemed like a good path after a liberal arts degree, and he won a scholarship to New York University School of Law. He cites John Maurice from the legal depart-



ment at Boise Cascade as a great influence



David Lerov.

on his career. The two hit it off after Maurice interviewed at NYU and Mark visited Boise. He received an offer at a prominent law firm after graduation and his future was set. His practice focused on civil defense and litigation. Mark received the Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Award in 2009 and has published many novels over the years. Mark is passionate about politics, history, the climate, and skiing. He and his wife Marijke are currently enjoying their new Aussie Doodle puppy along with their family including three children and five grandchildren.

#### Hon. Don L. Harding

Judge Harding wanted to be a lawyer while he was growing up in Malad, Idaho. He worked as a CPA while putting himself through Law School at George Washington University in Washington D.C. It was while there and doing work with Idaho Senator Frank Church that he met his wife Janet who was working for another congressman. After he began practicing law in Idaho, Judge Harding was encouraged by a district judge to apply for a magistrate judge position. He served in that capacity for six years, returned to practice law for seventeen years then returned to work as a judge for fourteen more years serving Franklin, Oneida, Bear Lake, Caribou

and Bannock counties. He and Janet enjoy traveling as well as golfing, fishing and taking care of the animals on his small farm.

#### **Richard L. Harris**

Richard is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law, Richard and his wife Jeannie live in Caldwell.

#### Robert M. Harwood

Bob received his undergraduate degree in the liberal arts prior to heading to law school. His practice revolved around general civil law. Bob cites Edward L. Benoit, I. Robert Alexander and Bar Harwood as being the greatest influences upon his career. He counsels new attorneys, "It is not about you, it is about your client. Take the ethical rules seriously. Especially the ones about telling the truth. Finally, remember the words of Edmund Burke, 'Evil flourishes when good men and women remain silent".

#### Peter C. Jenkins

Peter is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, Peter and his wife Erica Clary-Jenkins live in Arizona.

#### David H. Leroy

David determined in high school that his interests and aptitudes matched up well with the advocacy, research, writing and speaking required in law and politics. His practice has then focused on government, administrative and criminal defense law, including appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court. David echoes the words of Abraham Lincoln counseling new attorneys, "If you cannot become an honest lawyer, resolve to be honest without being a lawyer." Adding, "Ultimately, your reputation is your stock in trade". David finds joy in seeing and experiencing the achievements of his children, grandchildren, and those he has mentored personally and professionally. He spends his time writing, speaking, collecting artifacts related to Abraham Lincoln, golfing, playing tennis and traveling. He and his wife Nancy have two children and four grandchildren. Their daughter Jordan is an attorney in Texas.

#### David B. Lincoln

After attending the University of Idaho,

David went on to Hastings College of Law, University of California where he was a member of The Order of the Coif, the national honorary society for graduating



law students and the Thursten Society, the honorary organization of the University of California. He has represented many mining companies over the course of his career including Cypress Mines near Challis, Sunshine Mining in northern Idaho and Beker Industries in southeast Idaho. He holds membership in the Idaho State and Federal Courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Idaho Bankers Association. David has served on the Board of Directors for the Capital Classic Race for Children, Boise Ducks Unlimited and youth soccer organizations. David and his wife Sheila live in Boise.



Ron Schilling.

#### Robert M. Nielsen

After graduating as Top Marine Corp candidate with his BS in marine engineering and political science from the U.S. Naval Academy Annapolis, Maryland in 1966, Robert went on to receive his law degree from the University of Wyoming College of Law. As a sophomore, he was selected with other midshipmen to march in John F. Kennedy and General MacArthur's funerals. Robert chose the practice of law, "because of the intellectual and social challenge as well as the ability to earn a good living to support my family". He counsels young attorneys to work hard, apply themselves, know the relevant facts and law applicable to each case and always be prepared. Robert has three children and six grandchildren and, in the past, has enjoyed the pursuits of flying, hunting, fishing, and golfing.

#### James G. Reid

When Jim was a senior in college, he

knew he wanted to go to graduate school, but did not know if law school was what he wanted or not. He applied and got in and as time went on realized it was



the correct choice. The largest influences on him were his classmates and contemporary attorneys whose friendship and opinions he values. His greatest accomplishment? "Being married for 50 years. We married while we were in law school!" Jim cites his eight years, four as chairman, with the Idaho State Parole Board as one of his other great accomplishments. He advises young attorneys, "screen your clients. You don't have to take every case that walks in the door". He and his wife Andrea have three daughters, Jennifer, Melanie and Mary, and eight grandchildren. Their daughter Jennifer Mahoney is a local Boise attorney practicing alongside her father.

#### Gene D. Reneau

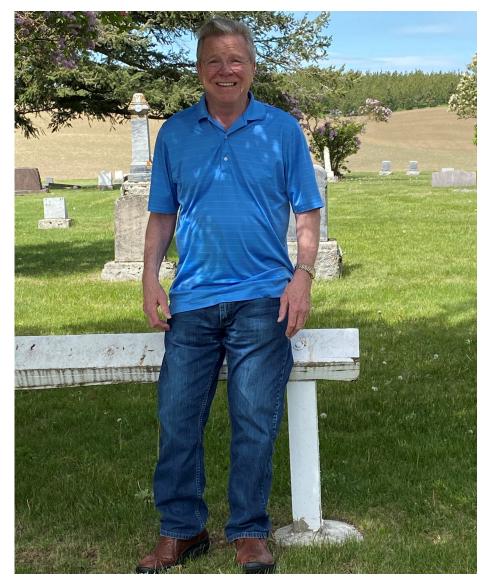
Gene is a graduate of the University of Colorado School of Law, Gene and his wife Sharon live in New Mexico.

#### Hon. Ronald D. Schilling

Ron is not sure why he decided to pursue a career in law just that he decided very early in life that he was going to be a lawyer. He cites Judge Ray McNichols whom he clerked for as a great influence on his career, "His professionalism and practical, straight-forward approach to legal issues were never forgotten". Ron served as a trial judge in Idaho with the goal to treat everyone involved with the courts with respect. His bench career began as a Magistrate Judge for the Second Judicial District in 1978, becoming a part-time US Magistrate in 1980, an Administrative District Judge in 1986, a District Judge in 1981 and he is currently a Senior Judge. Throughout his career he has served on Supreme Court Committees, taught at the Lewis-Clark State College and the University of Idaho College of law, received the George G Granata Jr. Award for Professionalism as a trial judge in 2000 and the ISB Professionalism Award in 1996. He and his wife Mary Lynne have three children, six grandchildren and enjoy tennis, cycling, walking, sports, and travel.

#### Vernon K. Smith Jr.

V.K. adored his father, a well-known trial lawyer practicing in Boise, and followed into the practice of law after his death to support and protect his mother's interests. He attended Gonzaga where he briefly considered becoming a Jesuit priest and graduated with two diplomas. He received his law degree from University of Idaho. V.K. professes his blessings in being given three "Victorias" in his life, his mother, his sister, and his wife all share the name, and cites their unconditional love and support as his inspiration. When not writing a brief or trying a case, his second passion is farming and agriculture. He feels blessed with the opportunity to love and protect the animals he cares for. V.K. gives this advice to young attorneys, "You



Tom Vasseur

must commit to embrace the tenacity needed and the devotion required".

#### Frederick H. Snook

Fred's father was a lawyer practic-

ing in Salmon. As an only son, Fred knew by the first grade that he was going to become a lawyer. His father being the major influence in his career, Fred

joined his firm right out of law school and three months after being sworn in was appointed the Salmon City Attorney. During the '70's he was elected as the Lemhi County Prosecuting Attorney and then appointed 7th District Magistrate in 1982 where he served for fourteen years. After retiring from the bench, he became the Lemhi County Public Defender and has served in that role for twenty years and counting. Fred is proud to count among his accomplishments the establishment of community service and probation programs in Lemhi County. He also serves his community as the Manager of the Salmon Select Horse & Mule Sale, Salmon's biggest yearly event, and has done so since 1971. Currently he and his son Frederick are restoring one of the historic (1901) brick buildings in Salmon, the McNutt Building, which was used as the Lemhi County Courthouse during the early 1900's.

#### James S. Underwood

Jim became an attorney after teaching philosophy and realizing he did not want to do that forever. He spoke with the dean of the law school and thought it was another approach to life that excited him, so he went to law school. He cites prominent Florida attorney and Judge Benjamin Lindsey, as having a great influence on his career and he was a decent hunting partner besides. Jim is most proud of the way he practiced law in the public sector. "I enjoyed representing people, did a lot of pro bono work and enjoyed it". He was appointed by Cecil Andrus as the Chairman of the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Committee on Health Care policy and loved working with Governor Andrus. Jim would recommend to a young lawyer that they "strongly consider practicing in a small office or a solo practice where they can concentrate on doing quality work." He is most passionate about conservation of natural resources and used to enjoy camping and canoeing and still enjoys hunting and splitting time between North Carolina and North Florida. He met his wife Christine when they joined forces to preserve the Little Willow Creek area of Idaho from a nuclear power plant. Jim has three children, two daughters and a son who is an administrator in a large firm and three grandchildren. His grandson is in his third year of law school.

#### Hon. John F. Varin

Having grown up in small town on a

small ranch, Judge Varin decided in high school that law was interesting and since the ranch was not large enough to support, he and all of his siblings, he applied and was accepted



into law school. Judge Varin states that his biggest challenge was going into law in a small town where everyone knew him as a child. He cites his mentors including him on their cases and introducing him to many other attorneys as helping to get over that. Judge Varin went on to serve as the Camas County Prosecuting Attorney for 12 years and was in private practice until his appointment to the bench as Magistrate Judge for Camas County.



Terry White

He retired after 22 years of judicial service including 13 years as a juvenile court judge and served as a Senior Judge working with the administrative office of the Supreme Court. In 1996 he was awarded the Kramer Award for Excellence in Judicial Administration by the Idaho Supreme Court. In 2006 he was awarded the John Schuler Award by the Idaho Juvenile Justice Association. He and his wife of fifty years, Cindy, have two children and four grandchildren. Judge Varin's son Will and his wife Julie are attorneys in Boise.

#### Thomas M. Vasseur

While at Washington State University he wanted to live in Idaho so on recommendation of his law class professor Jon Warren he spoke with George Bell, took an entrance exam, and scored highly assuring his inclusion in the program. His largest influence was Bill Nixon, a Coeur d'Alene attorney, who helped him professionally and with difficult personal trials. His largest challenge in his career was an issue with alcohol. He eventually sought help on the guidance of Bill Nixon and met other attorneys during his recovery who

helped him go forward with sobriety in his life and career. Tom is most proud and appreciative of having assisted thousands of people having serious life problems over the years. He advises young attorneys to "Be honest with people and do the best job you can for anyone who comes to you with a problem". Tom enjoys spending time with his family, his three children, four grandchildren and one great grandchild born this year. He is passionate about his work with the Lawyer Assistance Program as well as outdoor activities, wildlife photography, hunting, fishing, and rafting.

#### Michael J. Verbillis

Mike chose to go into the practice of law having always thought of it as an honorable calling. After completing law school and a brief stint with a prosecutor however, he went to Europe as a ski bum and to get in touch with his cultural heritage. It paid off when he met his future wife Debra in Greece. Mike is most proud of assisting to change the warning label for a vaccine that injured women and in changing the sexual harassment policies for a national business chain, all through litigation. He

counsels young attorneys to "Listen to your muse, stay committed even when things look bleak. Mostly, listen to the client". Mike and Debra have three children and three grandchildren. He enjoys cooking, golf, fishing, boating and travel as well as his grandchildren.

#### Terrence R. White

After taking a business law class from Professor Dobler, his interest in the law was peaked. Terry's law practice focuses on municipal, business, estate planning and real estate. With this background he represented the City of Nampa for over 40 years working with Ken Harward, former finance director for the city whom he cites as a great influence on his career, "Ken was a doer. We worked in the background on many projects ...and I appreciated getting things done and staying out of politics." He served as a Bar Commissioner, Bar President, Chairman of the Bar Exam Preparation Committee, President of the

Southwest Idaho Estate Planning Council, President of the Third District Bar, President of the Association of Idaho Cities City Attorneys group, as President of the Nampa Kiwanis Club, and President and managing member of his law firm: White, Peterson, Gigray, and Nichols. Terry enjoys retirement spending his time reading at the summer home in Donnelly, and visiting his grandchildren with the luxury of time to spare and no deadlines. He and his wife Carol have three children and two grandchildren. His oldest son Andrew has a law degree as well.

#### J. D. Williams

J.D. was raised on his family's cattle ranch in the mountains of southern Idaho. After taking time to serve a church mission for two years during college, he received his master's degree in Public Administration from Brigham Young University and law degree from Washington College of Law of American University in Washing-

ton, DC. J.D. has served as a Deputy Idaho Attorney General, County Prosecuting Attorney and Mayor as well as being elected three times as State Comptroller of Idaho. He has edited and contributed as an author for nine books on leadership and technology in government and been a member of the Idaho Water Resource and Idaho Land Boards. J.D. received the PK Agarwal Leadership Award from the National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Council in 2001, the President's Award from the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) in 1997 & 2001, Louis L Goldstean Leadership Award from the National Association of State Comptrollers in 1999 and the Distinguished Service Award from NASACT in 2017. J.D. was inducted into the Oneida County Hall of Fame in 2016 and NASACT's Hall of Fame in 2018. He enjoys playing golf, pickle ball and watching sports with his grandchildren as well as studying aspects of World War II history. He and his late wife Rosemary have four daughters and twelve grandchildren.

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#### Section of the Year

The Idaho State Bar Child Protection Section was formed in 2018 to band together those who work in the area of child protection to promote quality representation and to encourage collaboration with the judiciary and other practitioners who work with children and families. Since they were organized, they have continually worked to further their goals and to improve the lives of children in Idaho.

The Section has held two extensive multi-disciplinary CLEs including a daylong course in November 2019 and another one in April 2021 that was held virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both courses included multi-disciplinary topics and attendees. In 2019, the Section included a panel of young adults who had been in foster care so that the attendees could hear firsthand the issues that they had to deal with as children and how practitioners could improve their communication with foster children.

The leadership of the Section sought and received grant funding from the Idaho Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk to defray the cost of the programs so that many more attorneys and other staff from public agencies could attend. Additionally, they have had CLE topics during almost every meeting of the Section, which include topics such as ethics, issues representing refugees, the forensic interview process of abused/neglected children, juvenile justice processes, and representing guardians ad litem.

In February 2021, the Section worked with Judge Andrew Ellis, one of its ardent supporters and officers, to create a video in celebration of Foster Care Awareness Day. This video is also being used to promote the importance of the Guardian ad Litem programs and the need for community and attorney volunteers. The video is on the Idaho State Bar's YouTube channel and a link can be found on the Section's webpage.

The Section has supported Jessica's Trunk as a service project and helped raise funds to purchase suitcases for children who are being placed in the foster care system. They are currently accepting ideas for new service projects and are working to create an award for those working in the child welfare system. The Section is also co-sponsoring the February 2022 issue of The Advocate with the Indian Law Section. This issue will educate bar members and the public on important issues in the field of child protection and to address common issues between the two sections, including the Indian Child Welfare Act.

#### **Retiring Idaho Judges**

The following Supreme Court, Magistrate and District judges have retired from the bench or will be retiring from the bench this year. We would like to thank them for their dedicated service on the bench and for representing the standard of civility and professionalism to our membership.

Hon. Roger S. Burdick, Chief Justice at the Idaho Supreme Court in Boise. Justice Burdick graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1974.

Hon. Deborah A. Bail, District Judge at the Fourth District Court in Boise. Judge Bail graduated from Northwestern University School of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1975.

Hon. Jeff M. Brudie, District Judge at the Second District Court in Lewiston. Judge Brudie graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1984.

Hon. Christopher S. Nye, District Judge at the Third District Court in Caldwell. Judge Nye graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1982.

Hon. Scott L. Wayman, District Judge at the First District Court in Wallace. Judge Wayman graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1981.

Hon. Susan E. Wiebe, District Judge at the Third District Court in Payette. Judge Wiebe graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1988.

Hon. John T. Hawley, Magistrate Judge at the Ada County Magistrate Court in Boise. Judge Hawley graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1980.

Hon. Mick Hodges, Magistrate Judge at the Cassia County Magistrate Court in Burley. Judge Hodges graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1988.

Hon. Jerold W. Lee, Magistrate Judge at the Canyon County Magistrate Court in Caldwell. Judge Lee graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1995.

Hon. Lynnette L. McHenry, Magistrate Judge at the Ada County Magistrate Court in Boise. Judge McHenry graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1995.

Hon. Douglas P. Payne, Magistrate Judge at the Benewah County Magistrate Court in St. Maries. Judge Payne graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1993.

#### The Advocate Awards

The Advocate Awards are presented in two different categories to individuals who contributed to the magazine during the previous calendar year. The recipients are selected by the Editorial Advisory Board. We would like to thank everyone who contributes to this publication - your work truly makes this endeavor possible, as we are one of the few remaining Bar publications that solely relies on volunteer submissions. Thank you!

#### **Best Issue Sponsorship**

The Idaho Legal History Society and Idaho Women Lawyers' co-sponsorship of the November/December 2020 issue of The Advocate was this year's Editorial Board selection as 2020's Best Issue Sponsor. The issue celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The issue's timely theme and cohesive articles stood out as an excellent co-sponsorship effort. The issue provided memorable and intriguing articles which thoroughly explored the topic from a broad-based to local level. The issue began with Kaleena Beck's timeline overview of women's rights and the fight for equality. The feature article, by Debora Kristensen Grasham, provided an in-depth and informative discussion of the efforts of Idaho's earliest women lawyers to secure women's suffrage in our state. The next article, by Emily James, discussed the historical impact of women's suffrage within the context of gender and race equality. Finally, the co-authoring team of Christopher Graham and Lucy Murphy provided an apt and engaging look at the relationship between women's suffrage and the pandemic of 1918.

In addition to the overall excellent content, the Editorial Board appreciated the joint efforts of these two sections in collaborating together to provide a wellresearched, consistent, and well-timed issue for our readers.

#### **Best Article**

The Editorial Board selected Christopher Graham and Lucy Murphy's piece, entitled "Women's Suffrage and the Pandemic of 1918" as the Best Article of 2020 from the November/December 2020 issue. This article stood out to the Board for the co-authors' skill in combining a historical topic with a contemporary twist. The article explained how the Spanish flu pandemic nearly derailed the women's suffrage movement. In addition to being extremely well-researched, the article was engaging and thought-provoking. Graham and Murphy's piece was notable for its inclusion of interesting personal stories of how the pandemic impacted those involved in the women's suffrage movement. Through their exhaustive research and entertaining writing style, Graham and Murphy brought these historical events to life in a way that made them seem highly relevant today.

The Editorial Board appreciates and recognizes the hard work and skill of this exceptional co-authoring team. The Editorial Board also recognizes that one of these authors, Lucy Murphy, is a student at Boise State University, Honors College. The Board appreciates contributions of students and our lawyer authors who work with them. Graham and Murphy's artful melding of past and present, and tying it into the overall theme of suffrage and equality, stood out to the Editorial Board as Best Article of 2020.

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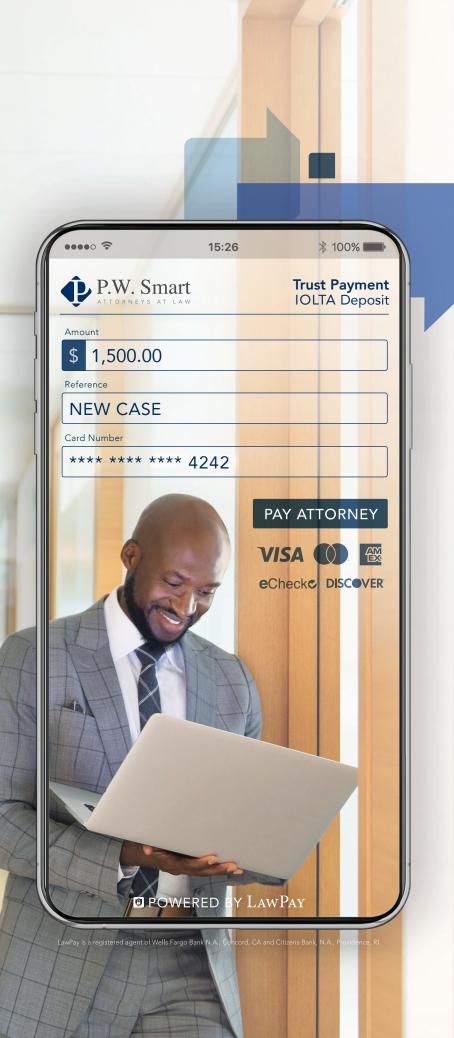


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We will not rest



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