

Love the Law! Southeast Idaho Event  
March 7, 2019

**Event Summary**

**Event Title:** Bingham County Courthouse Hearing Observation and Question & Answer

**Date & Time:** [REDACTED] 9:00 a.m – 1:00 p.m. March 7, 2019

**Location:** 501 N. Maple, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221 (Bingham County Courthouse)

**Number of Students:** 13 students and 2 chaperones

**Participating School:** Independence Alternative High School, Blackfoot, Idaho

**Summary of Events:** The students arrived at the courthouse close to 9:00 a.m. I met them at the top of the stairwell and we entered Courtroom #1 to observe preliminary hearings. After the hearings, the students were interested in exploring the courtroom: sitting in the jury box, sitting at the Bench, asking a witness questions from the lawyers' tables, and answering questions from the witness box. We were then met by Captain Mark Cowley, who took the students down to the Bingham County Jail for a tour of the facility and a talk about the daily life of an inmate. We then ate pizza and had a discussion about applying and interviewing for a job, led by Court Bailiff Carlos Mercado.

In the last few minutes, I asked the students to fill out the evaluation forms, if they were willing.

At approximately 1:00 p.m., the chaperones and students left the courthouse.

**Student Profiles:** 4 of the 13 students completed the LTL! Evaluation form and 3 students filled out the LTL! Background Information form.

Background Information.

Of the 3 students who completed the Background Information form, 1 identified as male and 2 identified as female. One of the students was 16 years of age and two were 17 years of age. All three students are graduating in May. None of the students identified as disabled. Two students reported that English was their native language and one student noted that English was not his first language. Two students identified as

“white/Caucasian” and one student identified as “other.” All 3 students stated that they identified with no specific religion. All 3 students reported they are heterosexual. Political/social ideologies ranged from “moderate” to “unsure or questioning” to “none of these.” All 3 students described their mother’s highest level of education as “earned a high school education.” One student noted that his father earned a high school education, one student did not answer the question, and one student explained that his father has a GED.

On the evaluation forms, the students’ favorite activities were “watching the trials,” “going to a cell,” “acting like the Judge/Lawyer/Jury” and “tour of the jail.” One student commented, “It was interesting and pertained to some of the things I want to do for a career.” Students did not like “the anxiety that filled the courtroom,” the limited amount of time for observing the preliminary hearings, and “seeing the jail.” One student would have liked to see more interesting preliminary hearings, and one thought there should be “slightly less talking.” The students would have added a tour of the actual jail cells with all the inmates, more job opportunities, and more preliminary hearings.

Background Information and event Evaluations will be submitted to the LTL! Chair for filing/reference. I will keep the originals for future reference.

**Costs Associated with Event:**

Pizza from Mr. Pizza:	\$ 93.75
Tip:	\$ 20.00
Plates/Napkins/Cups:	<u>\$ 17.26</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 141.01

A receipt for the pizza and the plates/napkins/cups will be submitted to the Love the Law! Subcommittee for reimbursement.

Lauren Murdoch