

MINUTES
ISB IDAHO LEGAL HISTORY SECTION MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2023 - 12:00 pm
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING

I. Call to Order

Chris Graham, Chair of the Idaho Legal History Section, called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.

II. Introductions

Members introduced themselves. Those present included:

Chris Graham	Greg LeDonne	Renee Karel
John McGown	Stephen Kenyon	Jonathan Gradin
Jose Rojas		

III. Old Business

A. Recent Activity Recap

Mr. Graham discussed positive feedback received about the November/December 2022 issue of The Advocate sponsored by the Section and the January event held by the Section at the Idaho State Archive to honor Ernie Hoidal.

B. Oral History Project

Mr. Graham noted that the Section needs to recruit help with the Oral History Project on several fronts. There are interviews that have been conducted but not yet transcribed as well as interviews that should be conducted within a reasonable timeframe. In terms of needs, the Section needs: (1) someone to take the lead with the project; (2) to compile a list of interviews to be conducted; and (3) to develop a group of people who can conduct the interviews working from a template of questions to begin and to help steer the conversations.

Among possible interviewees, Section members raised Judge Trott (an updated interview), Justice Burdick, Judge Lodge, Justice Stegner, Merlyn Clark, Reginald Reeves, Judge Gutierrez, Judge Lansing, and individuals among the fifty-year attorneys and judges honored at the annual bar meeting each year.

Mr. Kenyon indicated a continued willingness to work on recruiting interviewees among federal and state members of the judiciary, and Mr. Graham noted that the Section can obtain and provide digital recorders for the interviewers. The consensus was to seek volunteers through a communication to the Section's members.

C. "Tents to Towers"

Mr. Graham recounted that this project is still ongoing and that he will check on its status with Judge Lorello to see how the Section can be of assistance. Mr. Gradin offered to assist with the publication's layout and formatting if that would be helpful.

IV. New Business

A. Section Elections

Mr. Graham raised that Sections elections were last held in October 2021, and that it is time to hold them again. He solicited interest from members of the Section who were present and will be sending out a call for nominations in a communication to the Section's members. The election will be held electronically. Mr. Graham indicated his willingness to join the Section's council, and Mr. LeDonne indicated his willingness to continue in an officer role.

B. Byron Johnson Award

Mr. Graham noted that the Section's Byron Johnson Award was last awarded in 2021 to Judge Winmill and Judge Bush. Mr. Graham indicated that he will solicit nominations from the Section's members, and that he will be nominating Ernie Hoidal. There was discussion about whether to award one or multiple awards, but there was substantial support among the members present for awarding a single award to Ernie Hoidal in this round.

C. Presidential Commissions Display

Mr. Graham and Mr. Kenyon led a discussion of an opportunity for the Section to help create a display of the presidential commissions of Idaho's federal judges at the federal courthouse. Mr. Kenyon indicated that he was gathering information about how best to display these documents and potential costs for the display. There was support for the Section participating in the project and requesting grant funding to that end.

D. Other Projects

Mr. Graham noted that other possible future projects for the Section include a screening of a legal film, a potential Section CLE in fall 2024, and sponsorship of another issue of the The Advocate in late 2024. Ms. Karel raised the idea of incorporating the oral history project into a Section-sponsored issue of The Advocate through excerpts or other means, and there was support for doing so as a means of promoting the project more broadly.

V. Adjourn

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.