

the ADVOCATE

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August 2026



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Please join us in welcoming **Brian P. Kane '97** as the new dean of the College of Law. Most recently CEO and executive director of the National Association of Attorneys General, Dean Kane served as chief deputy attorney general for the Idaho Office of the Attorney General for 20 years and has served as adjunct faculty at the College of Law since 2017. In partnership with the Idaho legal community, Dean Kane, along with faculty, staff, and students, looks forward to advancing the mission of Idaho's law school and expanding its impact throughout the state, the region, and beyond.

the ADVOCATE

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On the Cover



The lawyers pictured here are the 2026 Distinguished Lawyers: Reed W. Larsen and William Wellman. Photo taken at the 2026 Annual Meeting held in Boise, Idaho. Photo courtesy of Calle Belodoff.

Distinguished Jurist

8 **Hon. Jessica M. Lorello**

Distinguished Lawyers

14 **Reed W. Larsen**
18 **William Wellman**

Outstanding Young Lawyer

22 **Kate Wheeler Peterson**

Other Awards

26	Professionalism Awards	36	Denise O'Donnell Day
32	Service Awards		Pro Bono Awards

Milestone Attorneys

42	75 Years of Admission	43	60 Years of Admission
42	70 Years of Admission	46	50 Years of Admission

Additional Awards & Recognitions

66	Section of the Year	67	Idaho Military Legal
66	Workers' Compensation		Alliance Awards
	Section Professionalism Award	67	Retiring Judges
66	Commercial Law &	67	2026 Idaho State Bar Annual
	Bankruptcy Section		Meeting Recap
	Professionalism Award		

From the Bar

6 **Bar Actions**

JAMES F. JACOBSON **(Resignation in Lieu of** **Disciplinary Proceedings)**

On June 4, 2026, the Idaho Supreme Court entered a Disciplinary Order accepting the resignation in lieu of disciplinary proceedings of Boise attorney James F. Jacobson, effective at 5:00 p.m. MDT on June 30, 2026. The Idaho Supreme Court's Order followed a stipulated resolution of a disciplinary proceeding that related to Mr. Jacobson's representation of clients in three separate matters.

In the first matter, the client retained Mr. Jacobson in May 2023 to file her Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Mr. Jacobson did not prepare the bankruptcy petition for the client's signature until June 2024. Mr. Jacobson failed to respond to the client's repeated requests for a status update regarding the bankruptcy case. The client signed the bankruptcy petition in June 2024, but inadvertently failed to sign in two places. Mr. Jacobson informed the client about the missing signatures in June 2024, but then failed to respond to the client's repeated requests for status updates about her bankruptcy case until he terminated the representation in November 2024. Mr. Jacobson provided a full refund to that client. Mr. Jacobson admitted that his conduct in that case violated IRPC 1.2(a) [Failing to abide by a client's decisions regarding the objectives of the representation], IRPC 1.3 [Failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness], and IRPC 1.4 [Failing to reasonably communicate with a client about the status of the matter].

In the second matter, the client retained Mr. Jacobson in October 2022 to file an appeal seeking the release of her friend, "J.S.," from prison. In March 2023 and multiple times thereafter, Mr. Jacobson confirmed to the client that he was preparing and would file documents in J.S.'s case. However, Mr. Jacobson never filed any documents in J.S.'s case and he failed to respond to the client's repeated requests for status updates. Mr. Jacobson admitted that his conduct in that case violated IRPC 1.2(a) [Failing to abide by a client's decisions regarding the objectives of the representation], IRPC 1.3 [Failing to act with

reasonable diligence and promptness], and IRPC 1.4 [Failing to reasonably communicate with a client about the status of the matter].

In the third matter, the client retained Mr. Jacobson in January 2024 for representation in a child support modification case. In March 2024, Mr. Jacobson filed the client's petition for modification and in May 2024, he filed the client's motion for a default judgment, which the court granted. Thereafter, Mr. Jacobson failed to respond to the client's repeated requests for status updates, failed to file any response to the magistrate court's Notice of Proposed Dismissal due to inactivity, and failed to inform the client about the Notice of Proposed Dismissal or the magistrate court's dismissal of the client's modification case. Mr. Jacobson admitted that his conduct in that case violated IRPC 1.2(a) [Failing to abide by a client's decisions regarding the objectives of the representation], IRPC 1.3 [Failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness], and IRPC 1.4 [Failing to reasonably communicate with a client about the status of the matter].

By the terms of the Idaho Supreme Court's Order, Mr. Jacobson's name was stricken from the records of the Idaho Supreme Court and his right to practice law before the courts in the State of Idaho was terminated at 5:00 p.m. MDT on June 30, 2026.

Inquiries about this matter may be directed to: Bar Counsel, Idaho State Bar, P.O. Box 895, Boise, Idaho 83701, (208) 334-4500.

DANIEL D. TAYLOR **(Resignation in Lieu of** **Disciplinary Proceedings)**

On May 18, 2026, the Idaho Supreme Court entered an Order accepting the resignation in lieu of disciplinary proceedings of Pocatello attorney Daniel D. Taylor. The Idaho Supreme Court's Order followed a stipulated resolution of a disciplinary proceeding that related to misconduct in eleven separate matters that involved eight Idaho Rule of Professional Conduct ("IRPC") violations.

Mr. Taylor admitted that he violated IRPC 1.1 [competence], in two matters.

In one matter, Mr. Taylor did not understand or appreciate the sentencing law applicable to one of his client's convictions, which led to the client seeking, and successfully obtaining, post-conviction relief. In another matter, Mr. Taylor filed an appellate brief that did not comply with the Idaho Appellate Rules and identified the wrong standard of review.

Mr. Taylor admitted that he violated IRPC 1.2(a) [failure to abide by client objectives], IRPC 1.3 [diligence], and IRPC 1.4 [communication] in six matters. In two matters, Mr. Taylor failed to timely file an appeal despite the clients' requests that he do so. In other matters, Mr. Taylor admitted that he failed to adequately communicate with his clients and keep them informed about the status of their cases and did not pursue the litigation consistent with the clients' interests and objectives.

Mr. Taylor admitted that he violated IRPC 1.5(a) [collecting unreasonable fees] in three matters. In one instance, Mr. Taylor held himself out as a Boise attorney despite living in Blackfoot and then billed \$2,275 for seven hours of travel time to Boise. In another matter, Mr. Taylor charged an unreasonable fee for reviewing discovery and preparing documents that were never filed. In the third matter, Mr. Taylor admitted that he collected fees for work that he failed to perform.

Mr. Taylor admitted that he violated IRPC 1.16(d) [declining or terminating representation] in three matters by failing to refund fees that had not been earned after the representation had concluded.

Mr. Taylor admitted that he violated IRPC 3.2 [expediting litigation] in two matters by failing to timely perform work and communicate with his clients, which led to cases being dismissed in one matter and the client's inability to move forward with a proposed mediation date in another matter.

Mr. Taylor admitted that he violated IRPC 5.3(b) [responsibilities regarding nonlawyer assistance] in four matters by failing to ensure his staff's conduct complied with Mr. Taylor's professional obligations. Some of the staff's misconduct included: failing to adequately communicate with a client concerning a refund

request, threatening to increase a client's billing and reduce the refund amount after the client's father suggested he would contact the Idaho State Bar, sending inappropriate and inflammatory messages to a client's parents, and failing to correct a client's misapprehension that a law clerk was an Idaho attorney in Mr. Taylor's firm.

The Idaho Supreme Court accepted Mr. Taylor's resignation in lieu of disciplinary proceedings. By the terms of the Order, Mr. Taylor may not make application for admission to the Idaho State Bar sooner than five (5) years from the date of his resignation. If he does make such application for admission, he will be required to comply with all the bar admission requirements in Section II of the Idaho Bar Commission Rules and shall have the burden of overcoming the rebuttable presumption of the "unfitness to practice law."

By the terms of the Idaho Supreme Court's Order, Mr. Taylor's name was

stricken from the records of the Idaho Supreme Court and his right to practice law before the courts in the State of Idaho was terminated on May 18, 2026.

Inquiries about this matter may be directed to: Bar Counsel, Idaho State Bar, P.O. Box 895, Boise, Idaho 83701, (208) 334-4500.

**Idaho Supreme Court Order
to Cancel License to Practice
Law for Non-compliance with
Mandatory Continuing Legal
Education (MCLE) Requirements**

WHEREAS, The Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar by and through their Executive Director have filed with the Clerk of this Court evidence that the following named attorneys are not in compliance with the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Requirements (MCLE),

pursuant to Idaho Bar Commission Rule 305 and 406;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the licenses to practice law in the State of Idaho of the following named attorneys shall be CANCELED for failure to comply with the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Requirements (MCLE):

JOHN ORSON PACKHAM

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the attorneys listed above shall be REMOVED from the roll of attorneys entitled to engage in the practice of law in the State of Idaho, unless otherwise provided by an Order of this Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Bar Counsel of the Idaho State Bar is hereby directed to distribute, serve or publish this Order as provided by the Idaho Bar Commission Rules.

DATED this 1ST day of June, 2026.



Congratulations!

Fourth District Bar Members



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2026 Service Award
Kurt D. Helzer
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Hon. Jessica M. Lorello

Background

I am a fifth-generation Idahoan who graduated from Boise High School more years ago than I disclose these days. I attended Boise State University for one year before driving across the country in a U-Haul with the ultimate goal of attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After taking a year off to become a resident of the Tarheel state, I enrolled in the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I worked full-time for a large multi-specialty healthcare clinic and attended classes in the evenings to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. While continuing to work full-time at the clinic, I earned a Master's Degree in Health Care Administration from the institution that lured me to North Carolina - UNC at Chapel Hill. The following year, I decided to pursue the career I always wanted—the law—and left behind the healthcare career

I found by accident. So, I took the LSAT and was accepted at the University of North Carolina School of Law, graduating in 2002.

During law school, I returned to Boise in the summers and externed at the U.S. Attorney's Office (1L summer) and the Ada County Prosecutor's Office (2L summer). After law school, I moved home and worked in private practice at Givens Pursley LLP until 2004, when I joined the Criminal Law Division of the Idaho Attorney General's Office. As a Deputy Attorney General, I worked in the Appellate Unit and the Capital Litigation Unit in addition to occasionally assisting the Special Prosecution Unit. While at the Attorney General's Office I handled hundreds of appeals, numerous habeas cases in federal court, and represented the State of Idaho in a handful of cases in district court. I also wrote a petition for certiorari and an amicus brief for cases in the United States Supreme Court.

In 2017, Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter appointed me to the Idaho Court of Appeals. The fifth time was a charm!

I am also an adjunct professor at the University of Idaho College of Law, where I have taught several classes, including evidence, legal writing, legal research, advanced advocacy, professional responsibility, state constitutional law, and lawyering process: trial through appeal.

Career Accomplishments

At the risk of redundancy, my career accomplishments include the various milestones in my journey to where I am today – graduating from law school, my first job at Givens Pursley, 10+ years of service as a Deputy Attorney General, and my appointment to the Idaho Court of Appeals. I also wrote the final chapter for *Tents to Towers: The History of the Practice of Law in Idaho* and wrote a

book, *Idaho Evidence Manual*, which was published in 2025. But the most notable moments for me are all related to teaching and civics education. I have been actively involved in Attorneys for Civic Education (ACE) since it was founded in 2023. ACE has supported many law-related and civics education programs for Idaho's youth, including Idaho High School Mock Trial, the YMCA's Youth in Government program, We the People, and the 4-H Know Your Government Program. I have coached a high school mock trial team, been a resource for several mock trial teams, helped prepare Idaho's state champion mock trial team for the national competition, attended the national competition, judged mock trial competitions both in the classroom and at the state and regional rounds for Idaho, and have worked on case development for many years for our state mock trial competition. Along the way, I have watched amazing volunteers, teachers, student participants, coaches, and mock trial staff devote extraordinary time and effort to make the program successful, educational, and fun.

I have been a member of the Youth in Government statewide planning committee since I joined the Court in 2017, which has given me the opportunity to help prepare students for the judicial component of the state conference held in Boise every spring. I even convinced my son to submit a bill on the legislative side one year, which was unanimously passed by the youth legislature and was signed by the youth governor!

I have also had the privilege of judging mock congressional hearings for We the People and giving an annual tour of the Idaho Supreme Court building for the 4-H Know Your Government's annual conference over Presidents Day weekend.

Again, I cannot give enough accolades to the participants, teachers, and volunteers who make these programs possible.

Role Models and Mentors

I have too many role models to list, and I would be reluctant to try for fear I might miss one. I think almost anyone we interact with to any degree can be a role model in one way or another—good or bad. Some teach us who we want to be and others show us who we don't want



Taking in a ball game in Tampa Bay in 2025. Because the Tampa Bay Rays' home stadium, Tropicana Field, suffered severe damage during Hurricane Milton in 2024, the Rays played all of their home games in 2025 at George Steinbrenner Field—the regular home of the New York Yankees' Spring Training and minor league games. Pictured left to right: Judge Lorello; Tonya Clark (mom); Spencer Lorello (son).



From left to right: Jeremy Borup (brother); Jordan Borup (nephew); Mark Loening (cousin); Judge Lorello; Spencer Lorello (son); Colby Borup (nephew).



Youth in Government State Conference, 2026. Pictured: Madison Hillery (law clerk); Judge Lorello; Alejandro Basulto (law clerk).

to be. I admire anyone who gives their whole heart to things that are meaningful to them, anyone who gives their time and energy to others, anyone who can say sorry and admit when they're wrong, and...I could go on, but I was told this article has a word limit. Even so, I owe a special shout-out to Lori, my bestie and role model in so many ways, and to Sue Stover, the most amazing judicial assistant.

Outside Interests

Although some don't think it counts as "outside of work," I regularly describe civics education activities as my hobby, i.e., what I like to do outside of work! Beyond that, I watch a lot of baseball, including watching my son play for many years. During the Major League Baseball season, most days you can find me either listening to a game or watching a game on TV. Time with friends is also a must.

I have one son – Spencer – who will turn 21 years old in September. He just finished his sophomore year at BSU and wants to be a math professor – an interest and ability he definitely did not get from me. My son is one of the best humans I know.

We have one dog – a golden retriever named Violet – and one cat named Harry. Harry generally tolerates all of us, but mostly prefers Spencer.

My mother, Tonya, lives in Hawaii with her partner, Travis. I have one older brother, Jeremy, who recently became a grandfather for the third time. That

means I am now a great aunt of three...all under the age of two. The two nephews responsible for these recent additions are Colby and Jordan. In case they read this, I would like to remind them I am available to babysit!

Fun Facts

I used to be a runner! I ran my first half-marathon at 40, after which I ran Robie Creek (twice), the Aldape Challenge, Zeitgeist (twice), the Stanley relay (twice), and a variety of other races. That said, I never held a candle to Madison Hillery, one of my law clerks, who is an ultra-marathon runner! I have also been to many, many Eric Church concerts, three P!nk concerts, and two Eagles concerts, one of which was at the Sphere in Las Vegas. Highly recommend!

Additional Comments

If you would like to get more involved in civics education, please call me!



My son and I with some members of our bonus family—the Flemings—travelling in Europe for my son's high school graduation in 2024. This photo was taken at a Hofbräu Wirtshaus in Berlin, Germany. Pictured: Todd Fleming; Judge Lorello; Spencer Lorello; Lori Fleming; Ted Fleming; Emily Fleming (and background diners I have never met). Not pictured but deeply missed: Tim Fleming.

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Nick Taylor
taylor.nick@dorsey.com
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Dorsey's Mergers & Acquisitions Team in Boise
The Boise-based team includes **Nick Taylor** (Partner), **Philip Maier** (Partner), **Kristiana Meek** (Associate), **Michael Pietruszewski** (Associate), and **Lauren Bouvia** (Associate).



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Reed W. Larsen

Background

Reed W. Larsen was born and raised on a farm in Burley, Idaho, and graduated from Burley High School in 1976. Growing up in a small town instilled in him a strong work ethic and a lifelong love of sports, including football, basketball, baseball, and track.

He attended Brigham Young University, graduating in 1982 with a degree in political science emphasizing middle eastern affairs and a minor in soil science. During college, he worked summers farming to pay for school and winters as a ski instructor at Sundance Ski Resort. He also became an avid supporter of BYU athletics, attending nearly every sporting event he could.

Reed earned his law degree from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1985: a graduating class he remains especially proud to be part of.

He began practicing law in Pocatello in 1985 with Racine, Olson, Nye, Cooper & Budge. After becoming a partner, he

practiced there for 13 years alongside mentors and colleagues Lou Racine, Bill Olson, Mark Nye, and Gary Cooper. In 1998, Reed and Gary Cooper formed Cooper & Larsen, a partnership Reed describes as one of the great blessings of his professional life.

Throughout his career, Reed has served as Sixth District Bar President, Idaho State Bar Commissioner, and Idaho State Bar President. He also served six years on the Idaho Judicial Council, participated on the Legislative Compensation Committee, and served on the University of Idaho College of Law Advisory Board. In 2016, he was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers, which he thought was the most surprising award until this Distinguished Lawyer award.

Beyond the law, Reed has been deeply involved in rodeo throughout the Intermountain West for more than 30 years. He served as Chairman

of the Intermountain Professional Rodeo Association for 13 years and was inducted into the Eastern Idaho Horseman Hall of Fame.



Reed and his wife, Carleen.

Reed and his wife, Carleen, have been married for 10 years and together share a large blended-family of eight children, 18 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. They enjoy traveling, spending winters in Wickenburg, Arizona, and making the most of time with family and friends.

Career Accomplishments

From the beginning of his legal career, Reed aspired to become a trial lawyer. Practicing in Pocatello, a railroad town, he recognized the need for representation in railroad injury cases under the Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA). In 1986, he handled his first FELA case representing Mike Hanners, securing a successful outcome that helped his client transition into a new career in education. That case launched a railroad practice spanning Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon, Nebraska, and Missouri, while also creating lifelong relationships with the families he represented.

His railroad litigation work also contributed to important public safety improvements, including litigation that helped lead to the Cheyenne Street overpass project in Pocatello and the closure of a dangerous railroad crossing in Power County.

Reed also handled significant public safety litigation involving cyanide predator-control devices used by the Bureau of Land Management. The case drew national attention and contributed to the eventual ban of the devices in 2019.

Over the course of his career, Reed has tried cases in state, federal, and tribal courts throughout the western United States. He handled both tribal disenrollment cases in the history of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Court, experiences he describes as especially memorable.

Another professional milestone was trying the first Americans with Disabilities Act jury case in Idaho. Reed represented a railroad employee who injured his knee at work, recovered, and simply wanted to return to his job. Although the underlying FELA claim had been resolved, the railroad refused to allow the employee back to work, forcing him into an 18-month battle to regain his position.

During the litigation, the railroad ultimately agreed to reinstate the employee, which Reed considered an important victory. However, the company still refused to compensate him for the emotional and financial hardship caused by being kept from work. The case proceeded to trial before the Honorable Judge Randy Smith.

In a moment Reed has never forgotten, Judge Smith remarked during trial that he wouldn't "give a nickel" for Reed's case. Reed quickly responded, "I'm glad it's going to a jury then." The jury ultimately returned a verdict of \$150,000 in favor of Reed's client, along with attorney fees and

costs—a result Reed remembers not only as a legal victory, but as a meaningful win for fairness and dignity in the workplace.

For Reed, the most meaningful aspect of practicing law has always been helping people and building lasting friendships along the way.

Role Models and Mentors

Reed credits much of his success to the example and guidance of others. His mother taught him the value of determination and follow-through, while his father and years of farm work taught him



Reed on his horse, Jack.

discipline and perseverance. He also credits Glen Larson and his wife with teaching him important lessons about business, work, and education.

Professionally, Reed was shaped by mentors, Lou Racine, Bill Olson, Mark Nye, and especially Gary Cooper, whom he describes as a mentor, partner, and brother. He learned not only how to practice law, but also the importance of maintaining balance, humor, and perspective in a demanding profession. Reed often jokes that Lou and Bill taught him that, if legal work happened to be near a good fishing stream, it was part of the job description to do both. Over the years, he perfected that philosophy, settling cases while skiing or even on horseback at team roping events.

He also expresses gratitude for the many judges and attorneys who supported and encouraged him throughout his career, including Judge Woodland, Judge McDermott, Judge Randy Smith, and Judge Monte Carlson.

Outside Interests

Although Reed has loved practicing law, he has never allowed the profession to fully define him. He has always valued his roles as a husband, father, grandfather, rancher, and horseman just as highly.

An avid team roper and horse enthusiast, Reed has competed throughout the western United States, earning numerous saddles, buckles, and other awards along the way. Winters in Wickenburg, Arizona allow him to continue working remotely while enjoying rodeo, golf, and the western lifestyle he loves.

Reed and Carleen also enjoy traveling and exploring new places together. They recently returned from a Mediterranean cruise and look forward to seeing more of the world in the years ahead.

Closing Reflections

Reflecting on his career and life, Reed considers himself extraordinarily fortunate. He is deeply grateful for the mentors, partners, colleagues, staff, friends, and family members who supported him throughout his journey.

He especially thanks Gary Cooper for decades of friendship and partnership; his wife, Carleen, for her love and encouragement; and his longtime staff members, Jamie Anderson, Connie Wynn, Liz VanOrden, and Karla Holm for their loyalty and professionalism. He also expresses pride in the next generation of attorneys at Cooper & Larsen, including Tony Budge and JD Oborn.

Reed describes receiving the Distinguished Lawyer Award as both humbling and deeply meaningful. To be mentioned alongside attorneys he has admired throughout his career is, in his words, one of the greatest honors of his life..



Reed roping at the rodeo.

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William Wellman

Background

Bill's boyhood home was Huntington, West Virginia. Athletics shaped his youth. Bill played basketball and golf and was part of two State Championship teams in 1968 and 1969. He was selected to the All-State Basketball team his senior year. Both Duke and Miami University recruited Bill to play college golf, but he chose Miami since they offered him a scholarship. His older brothers and mother instilled competitiveness in Bill. The golf team at Miami was extremely competitive and it took him two years to break into the regular six player lineup. Bill's senior year was by far his best season of golf, and he was selected to the Golf Coaches of America All American team.

For a brief time after graduation from Miami University, Bill was a professional golfer. He attempted to qualify for the PGA Tour but success as a pro golfer eluded him, and he pivoted to pursue

law. Bill had always admired some of the lawyers that he was around as a teenager in Huntington and the transition to law school was easy.

Bill met his wife Debbie in San Diego when they were in their respective college roommates' wedding. They were married in 1977, a year after meeting. Debbie attended West Virginia University and earned a master's in counseling while Bill was in law school at WVU.

Bill's mother was one of 12 children and her family farmed near the Kanawa River, near Charleston, West Virginia. A great flood in 1937 was too much to overcome and the family moved to homestead land in Morrow County, Ohio. On Father's Day weekend each year the Jordan Family Reunion was held on the farm west of Mansfield, Ohio. The reunion was remarkable for the sheer size of the gathering with sometimes over 300 relatives attending.

As a teenager at the Jordan reunions, Bill listened to stories of the Idaho

mountains and rivers from his uncle, Bud Jordan. Bud was a pilot with United Airlines and Boise was his favorite lay-over. Uncle Bud owned a mountain ranch in Boise County that was divided by Five Mile Creek loaded with little rainbow trout. Near Grandjean, the mountains rose quickly and a few miles further northeast the Sawtooth's cut into the most incredible blue sky that Bill had ever seen.

Debbie and Bill struggled with where they wanted to live after graduate school and law school and were considering Cincinnati, Ohio. But, while traveling West to visit family in Santa Rosa, California in 1978, Bill interviewed with a few Boise law firms. He had no success in that endeavor, but the more they thought about the growth potential in Boise, they decided to take a chance and move here without any job commitments after being sworn in as an attorney in West Virginia. The Wellmans thought they were marketable, but at 27 who knows very much

about anything. They were here to stay in May 1979.

Bill and Debbie have three children and five grandchildren that are loving and precious to them. So, naturally they follow them around and cheer them along. Their daughters, Amy and Beth Ann, are amazing mothers and wives, and Bill counts himself lucky to have the sons-in-law that they chose.

As an adult, golf has been a constant activity for Bill and holds a special place next to family. Bill has been fortunate to make friends through golf all around the country. Golf friends are a unique body of work and bring the eccentricities of life to a higher level. Bill was a USGA Committeeman for Idaho for over 25 years and has qualified for the United States Amateur Championship three times.

Career Moments

Bill was fortunate to be hired by Dennis Goff as a deputy prosecutor for Canyon

County in Caldwell in August 1979. The office was lean, so Bill was prosecuting felony jury trials in his third month. They had a talented team of lawyers in Greg Culet, Bill Dillon, Jeff Jones, Steve Gledhill, and Tom Lynch to go along with Dennis. Dennis, and this team of lawyers, mentored Bill by watching in the courtroom and taking notes that were reviewed after each trial day. He gained a wealth of courtroom confidence in his first year.

Nampa needed a city prosecutor in early 1980 and Bill moved into solo private practice and shared space with Gary Morgan and handled misdemeanor prosecutions for five years. While Bill was prosecuting misdemeanor cases, he also took court appointed criminal cases outside of Canyon County and became more familiar with the court in Murphy, Owyhee County.

In 1986, Bill approached Judge Ed Lodge and Owyhee County Commission and proposed the county contract for public defense service. Bill underbid Renae Hoff and Alan Coffel and signed a contract



Bill and Debbie with their dog, Cedar, on the Homestead Trail in the Boise Foothills.



Bill's grandkids: Joaquin, Hattie June, Boyd, Henry and Beñat.



Bill and Debbie in Tangiers. Kingdom of Morocco, 2024.



Retired colleagues and judges. Dennis Goff, Dan Grober, Bill Wellman, Thomas Ryan, Alan Coffel, Christopher Nye, Gregg Lovan.

that started a 38-year public defense career began. Near the end of his first term as the public defender, Bill was appointed to represent Maxwell Hoffman in a first-degree murder case that went to the Idaho Supreme Court. Bill was ill-prepared and Max was convicted and sentenced to death. His sentence was eventually overturned by the Ninth Circuit and Max lived out his days in maximum security at ISCI. *State v. Hoffman*, 123 Idaho 638 (1992). Murder and Meth in the High Desert by Rick Wiley will accurately fill you in on the details. Another case that touched Bill deeply was the Homedale Involuntary Manslaughter burned baby case. Trials are and were Bill's most interesting work. Bill has a competitive nature that comes out when he is pushed by the need for fairness and justice.

Some of the best times as a solo attorney were when Bill was in the next office to his wife, Debbie, who was a highly respected child custody mediator and later a Parent Coordinator.

Bill genuinely enjoyed the work as public defender. Clients that he served have sent him thank you cards that he cherishes.

As Bill looks back, he should have kept a fireman's helmet nearby for most of his career. He did a little of everything: criminal defense, Plaintiff PI, divorce and custody, real estate, and for now, he primarily manages all manner of paternity and child support cases for IDHW.

Reflections

Bill is humbled to be considered by the Bar Commissioners as a Distinguished Lawyer. He never thought it possible for a sole practitioner lawyer to be considered.

Bill has observed that success comes with time. Humility is a characteristic that is not normally attached to lawyers, but in his experience the best lawyers are not arrogant or proud, but rather focused on solving problems with honest work and clear predictability for the client.

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Parsons Behle & Latimer congratulates Idaho Falls associate Kate Wheeler Peterson, recipient of the Idaho State Bar's 2026 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

Kate's civil litigation practice is marked by exceptional client service and a commitment to achieving meaningful results. She is equally dedicated to serving her community, generously contributing her time and talents to organizations and initiatives throughout Eastern Idaho.

This prestigious honor reflects the leadership, professionalism and service that define Kate's work every day. Congratulations, Kate, on this well-deserved recognition.

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Kate Wheeler Peterson

Background

Kate was born and raised in Blackfoot, Idaho. She attended Brigham Young University and graduated in 2019 with a B.S. in political science with a minor in international development. She spent one summer in Thailand, studying the politics of that region and the various ways that different countries developed in relation to their political systems. Each day was spent at an internship with the Chiang Mai District court, the local general jurisdiction court, where Kate observed their mandatory mediation program. This interest in mediation is still strong today; she finds mediation days to be among her favorite days in the profession.

Kate attended law school at Arizona State University where she was named a Sandra Day O'Connor Honors Fellow and Leo & Annette Beus Top Scholar. While navigating law school during the Covid shutdown was challenging, Kate

found several opportunities to gain valuable experience. During her final year, she worked with the Arizona Justice Project as a Rule 39 limited practice student. She was awarded a CALI award for her work with the Post-Conviction Clinic. She also worked in criminal court under the supervision of defense attorney, mentor, and dear friend Ian Service, handling a wide range of criminal cases, including misdemeanors and felonies. She was awarded her J.D. and graduated cum laude in May 2022.

Career Path

Kate was eager to return to Southeast Idaho after graduation, where she joined Racine Olson in Pocatello. Kate was grateful to join a group of experienced and value-driven attorneys who taught her what it looks like to be an ethical attorney in delivering value to clients. Both by example and through active

corrections and advice, true friends and colleagues taught her valuable lessons. Their guidance rings in her ears each day that she practices. In that time period, Kate coached the Pocatello High School mock trial teams and working with those students reignited the spirit for civics that led her to the profession in the first place.

In 2025, Kate joined Parsons Behle & Latimer and has expanded her practice. Parsons has helped her take advocacy to the next level, and her practice area has expanded to include more complex commercial litigation. Kate has experienced meaningful involvement both inside and outside of the courtroom, and she is grateful to be at a firm that supports young lawyers in practice development.

Role Models & Mentors

Growing up in Blackfoot, Kate was surrounded by a community with deep



local attorneys, and community members. Lauren Murdoch and Holly Kartchner instilled confidence in Kate with encouragement and they remain close friends to this day. This experience left a deep and lasting impression on her.

In practice, Kate deeply admires many colleagues she works closely with on the board for the Portneuf Inns of Court, the board for the Eagle Rock Inns of Court, Idaho Women Lawyers, and in active practice. She has learned how critical a support system within the legal community can be. She has also developed good friendships in volunteering with the Sixth District CASA Program.

Hobbies & Personal Life

Outside of practice, Kate enjoys volunteering with community organizations and spending time with her family. She serves on the Board of the Directors of the Idaho Falls Symphony and the Bingham County Board of Community Guardians. She is also a member of the Village Improvement Society and the Idaho Falls Rotary Club. Her free time is spent in the garden, playing with a local flute choir, or camping with her two dogs. Community and connections truly fill her cup.

Top left: Kate hiking in the Tetons.

Top right: Kate with members of Idaho Women Lawyers at the 2026 IWL Gala.

Bottom left: Kate and her husband, Tyler, in Iceland.

roots. She truly feels like she was raised by a village. The community values here, demonstrated by the shining examples of her parents, are what drew her home. Kate now resides in Blackfoot, incredibly happy to be home and surrounded by

family and long-time friends.

In high school, Kate joined Blackfoot's "We the People" team and first discovered her passion for civics and justice. Fueling this passion were some key mentors, including teachers,



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Professionalism Awards



Top row, left to right: Julie S. Kane, Tyler S. Rounds, Walter J. Donovan Jr. Bottom row, left to right: William L.M. Nary, Richard A. Diehl Jr., Eric M. Barzee (1972 – 2025).

Professionalism Awards 2026

Each year the Idaho State Bar presents the Professionalism Award to recipients who 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:

What ideals or values do you let guide your professional life? And what advice would you give your younger self as you entered your law practice or began your career?

Hon. James F. Combo – First District

Graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law. Admitted to the Idaho State Bar September 30, 1983.

Julie S. Kane – Second District

Values: It is hard to address ideals and values in such a short space, but I would say compassion and integrity have been the primary guiding forces throughout my legal career. There are many injustices in the world, so I wanted to learn the law, understand how to apply it, and help clients with their legal challenges. I also wanted to be honest and up front with

my clients, my opposing counsel, and the court. I have always looked at things pragmatically, so I believe that has helped me get through many challenges.

Advice: Embrace the whole experience, good and bad. Learn from everyone. LISTEN.

Julie Sobotta Kane obtained her Juris Doctorate from University of Idaho College of Law. Her first job out of law school was in Vancouver, Washington, in the Attorney General's Office. After three years there, she moved back to Idaho and took a position as a staff attorney with the in-house legal office for the Nez Perce Tribe. She later moved into the Managing Attorney position and served there until she retired in January 2026. Enrolled in the Eastern Band Cherokee Tribe, Julie

resides in Lapwai, Idaho, with her husband, Dan, and has two adult children and two grandchildren.

Tyler S. Rounds – Third District

Values: Because my practice focuses on family law, I strive for zealous client advocacy (while maintaining integrity and honesty) in the present moment, but also trying to help advocate for what is in the client's best interest five, 10, or 20 years down the road (even if in the present moment they are not concerned about anything but the fight in front of them).

Advice: I would have told myself to take business courses in my undergraduate years to help prepare me for the challenges of running and managing a law firm in my late 20s. I would also have said that it turns out law review and my class ranking were not nearly as important as learning the skill of the day-to-day practice of law and managing client expectations.

Tyler was born in Boise, Idaho; graduated from Middleton High School in 2001; graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.S. in 2005; graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law with a J.D. in 2007; was a member of the Idaho Law Review; was admitted to the Idaho State Bar and U.S. District Court in 2008; and clerked for the Honorable Thomas J. Ryan, 2008-2009. He is the current President of the Third District Bar, current past chair of the Family Law Section of the Idaho State Bar, and a graduate of the Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers.

Tyler lives in Eagle with his wife, Jennifer, and his blended family that includes five children. He exclusively practices in the area of family law.

Walter J. Donovan Jr. – Fourth District

Values: Honesty and Integrity are moral twins. By honoring both, one usually abides by the Ten Commandments... and Bar Ethics.

Advice: I earned my law degree late at the age of 40. So my advice would be: sustain your energy and keep learning.

After Vietnam combat tour 1967-68, Walter enrolled in Western State, later Jefferson Law School, in San Diego. He was admitted to the California Bar in 1974 after four years—and four summers-of night school. He commuted from Camp Pendleton for 1.5 years, then commanded the Marine Barracks, North Island.

As a Marine Corps lawyer, Walter helped comply with the Federal Military Justice Act of 1968. Having been a commanding officer three times, and doing well in Naval War College, he was promoted to Brigadier General in 1983. Resolving ethics violations at El Toro air station, he established the Chief Defense Counsel of the Marine Corps position—which continues to this day. Upon retirement, Walter was a DepDA in Vista, CA for 11 years. He and his wife retired to Boise in 1996. He "failed" retirement and took the Idaho Bar Exam at age 64 and briefly worked in the Ada County PA office. Walter helped grade the Idaho Bar Exam for 10 years. He attends Boise Phil, Idaho Shakespeare, City Club, Committee on Foreign Relations, Retired Officers Group, and his Catholic church.

William L.M. Nary – Fourth District

Values: Honesty and integrity are easy buzzwords to cite when asked about values, but the key is in demonstrating those values through your actions and your interactions with others. My career has been in public service, and those values are critical in how you treat your co-workers and the public to gain their respect and willingness to listen and understand you. In public service if we can be honest with people, empathize with their situation, and work to provide the best answer that we can, and do what we say we will do then we have done the job that we are expected to do. When a member of the public says to me that 'I pay your salary!' I agree, and I never forget that they do. Everyone deserves to be heard and be given the straight and honest answer to their concerns, even when they don't want to hear it.

Advice: Satisfaction and success will come more from the relationships and connections that you build and cultivate than just winning and losing. Creating a work-life balance and creating a positive culture with your team will bring greater accomplishment than any monetary measure. I have been fortunate to work with many smart people, and I have learned from all of them. I have worked for good bosses and "not so good" bosses, and learned from all of them. I have had people work with and for me for decades because of those connections. I would tell the younger me that I have never been disappointed by treating people with respect and simply making people feel valued and appreciated. I was fortunate to go to school and graduate with an incredible class of people that I still call my friends and maintaining that connection with people for over 40 years has never let me down. That desire to connect with others has sustained me throughout my career. It is the reason for public service.

William received his undergraduate degree from the College of Idaho in 1982 and went to the University of Idaho College of Law in 1985. He was admitted to the bar in 1985 and began with a small law firm in Meridian, Ambrose, Fitzgerald, and Crookston, and served primarily as the City Prosecutor for Meridian until 1989. In 1989, he moved to the City of Boise as a prosecutor and stayed there until 2004. In that time, he served as a criminal prosecutor, Prosecution Unit Supervisor, Senior Criminal Deputy City Attorney, Police Attorney, and Senior Civil Deputy City Attorney. William was the primary attorney at various times for the Boise Police Department, Human Resources, the Boise Airport, Planning and Zoning, and the Parks Department.

William also served as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for the City of Meridian from 2000-2001 and then was elected to the Meridian City Council in 2001 for a four-year term. After serving nearly three years of the term, he stepped down to accept the appointment as City Attorney and Human Resources Director for the City of Meridian in 2004. In that time, he also was the Director of the IT Department for about six

years. In that time, William has served as President of the Idaho Municipal Attorney's Association (IMA) and has been recognized by IMA's Dale Storer Professionalism Award (2017) and the Will Herrington Career of Service Award (2024), as well as the Idaho Business Review Leaders in Law award (2015).

Hon. Jennifer L.K. Haemmerle – Fifth District

Graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law. Admitted to the Idaho State Bar September 21, 1989.

Richard A. Diehl Jr. – Sixth District

Values: Be humble and be inquisitive. If you only learn one new thing on a given day, it has been a good day. Treat everyone you meet with kindness and respect whether friend or foe.

Advice: There are really only three things you can control in life: how hard you work; how you treat others; and your own attitude. Even when you have mastered those three concepts, you are only halfway there since the only constant in life is it is always evolving and change is the only true constant. Work hard, have fun, and continue to learn.

After serving in the Gulf War in 1991 with Delta Company, 2nd Recon Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, 2nd MEF, Richard entered Law School and graduated from U of I College of Law in the Spring of 1994. He finished his service with the USMC at the same time that he graduated. Upon graduation, he and his wife, Diane, moved to Pocatello, and he clerked for the Hon. Peter D. McDermott. Richard served as a Bannock County Deputy Prosecutor and was part of the team which prosecuted Ligertown. In 2001, he moved to the City of Pocatello and has served as a Deputy City Attorney ever since, doing an eclectic variety of municipal matters and criminal cases.

During his time in Pocatello he has served as an officer of the Sixth District Bar Association, as well as a member of

the Bannock County Veteran's Treatment Court. He has also helped start up (with assistance and guidance from Judge Rick Carnaroli) a Veterans Legal Aid Clinic in conjunction with Idaho State University, Bannock County Veteran Services, and the VA. He has also been honored by the Bar with the Outstanding Service Award in 2016. Richard is also a member of the Fifth District Football Association and will be entering his 31st year as a High School Football Official.

In their spare time, he and Diane enjoy gardening and one of the best times of the year is harvest and canning season. They have four adult children and their black cat, Nygthshade.

Eric M. Barzee (1972 – 2025) – Seventh District

Eric Barzee passed away unexpectedly on December 18, 2025. He was nominated for this award by his colleagues and friends in the legal department at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL).

Values: The ideals and values that guided Eric's professional life were rooted in service, dedication, sincerity, and meaningful connection with others. He was driven and competitive, yet remained warm, approachable, and genuine because he deeply valued relationships. He enjoyed creating opportunities to bring people together. He made a point to notice people, believe in them, and encourage them with openness and generosity. Eric approached his work and leadership with honesty, compassion, and a true heart for serving others.

Advice: Don't take yourself too seriously. Work hard and be prepared but keep perspective. A sense of humor will carry you through long hours and stressful negotiations far better than constant criticism. Make time for family and the people you care about while you're building your career—not after things calm down, because they rarely do. Work will always be there. Kids grow up, parents get older, and friendships drift if you neglect them. Some of the most meaningful moments

in life happen in the ordinary evenings, spontaneous get-togethers, and showing up consistently for the people who matter.

And finally, invest in relationships everywhere you go. Don't network just to get ahead; genuinely get to know people. Be curious about them. Help others when there's nothing in it for you. Your reputation will travel farther than your résumé ever will.

Over time, Eric realized that a good career was not just about achievements. It was about building a life that he actually enjoyed living, alongside people he respected and cared about.

Eric Barzee grew up in Rexburg, Idaho. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from Brigham Young University in 1996. Then Eric attended J. Reuben Clark Law School, where he graduated cum laude with his Juris Doctor in 1999. That same year, he was admitted to the Utah State Bar, followed by admission to the United States Patent Bar in 2000 and the Idaho State Bar in 2005.

Following law school, Eric began his legal career with Madson and Metcalf, an intellectual property law firm in Salt Lake City, where he practiced from 1999 to 2002. He then joined Corixa Corporation, a biotechnology company in Seattle, from 2002 to 2003. Returning to Idaho Falls, Eric worked with Moffatt Thomas from 2003 to 2005 before accepting a position as Patent Counsel for Battelle Energy Alliance at the Idaho National Laboratory in 2005.

In May 2016, Eric was promoted to Chief Intellectual Property Counsel, a role he faithfully served in until the time of his passing. Throughout his career, Eric was respected not only for his intelligence and professional accomplishments, but also for his dedication to his family, his integrity, and the lasting impact he made on those who knew and worked with him. He is survived by his wife, NiCole, and six children: Abby, James, Jessica, Alex, Ethan, and Evan.

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Top row, left to right: Lisa S. Fabreguette, Kurt D. Holzer, Boyd "Mack" Mayo. Bottom row, left to right: Hon. Paige M. Nolte, Jessica Perez, Tammie D. Whyte.

Service Awards 2026

The individuals selected for this year's Service Awards include attorneys 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:

Why is serving your community, personally or professionally, a priority to you? And what advice would you give your younger self as you entered your law practice or began your career?

Lisa S. Fabreguette

Why Service: After working in the legal profession, I have become acutely aware that not all people have had the same experience in life as I have had with a loving, supportive family and the ability to excel in life. Helping others who are experiencing difficulties in their life, especially those who do not have the support of family, emotionally or financially, is something I am grateful to be able to provide with my skills as an attorney.

Advice: Judge John C. Judge was the first magistrate judge I practiced in front of while working on a limited license with the Latah County Prosecutor's Office. I told him one day toward the end of my 3L year that "I was beginning to see the light

at the end of the tunnel." He said, "it's not a light, it's a train and it will hit you." The practice of law is like a train. It's stressful, and I believe it should be because we have an enormous impact on the lives of clients and their children, which is also the same reason that the practice of law and helping others can be so rewarding.

Lisa S. Fabreguette is a Boise-based family law attorney, but having started her career in the Fifth District, still has a portion of her caseload in the Fifth District. She earned her J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law, where she was active in leadership and the Inns of Court, and holds M.S. and B.A. degrees from Boise State University. Early in her legal career, she served as a legal extern with the Latah County Prosecutor's Office and as a research assistant.

Before law school, Lisa taught in dual-immersion classrooms teaching Spanish Elementary School in Idaho and English Elementary School in Puebla, Mexico. She is engaged in community service, including board roles, bar exam grading, and legal aid and translation for courts and clinics. She enjoys travel, golf, and learning languages. Lisa is fluent in Spanish, speaks French at an intermediate level, and is now learning Italian.

Kurt D. Holzer

Why Service: As lawyers, we are given a front-row seat to people's hardest moments and a voice in systems that profoundly affect their lives; that is an enormous privilege. I feel a corresponding obligation to use my time and skills to make those systems a little fairer, more accessible, and more humane. Community service in its many manifestations gives back far more than it takes: it sharpens judgment, broadens perspective beyond a single practice area, and reminds me that the rule of law only works if enough people are willing to show up, do the unglamorous work, and keep the lights on for those who come after us.

Advice: I would encourage the young-me to find room for more kindness whether with opponents, potential clients, colleagues or family. It's when you allow that to ebb that the errors you will regret arise. I would also remind myself to pick up the phone early and often, ask the "dumb" questions, and let mentors shorten the learning curve instead of trying to muscle through alone.

Kurt Holzer is a plaintiffs' trial attorney in Boise whose practice has focused on representing injured and wronged Idahoans since 1993. A 1992 graduate of the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah, he was a William H. Leary Scholar and Executive Editor of the Utah Law Review, and he was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1993. After clerking on the Utah Court of Appeals, he tried cases at Holland & Hart before co-founding a multi-state litigation firm and then joining what is now Hepworth Holzer LLP, where his practice centers on

serious injury, wrongful death, and insurance cases.

He has obtained multiple seven-figure verdicts and settlements, served as President of both the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association and the Idaho State Bar, and has been recognized as Idaho Trial Lawyer of the Year, a Lawdragon 500 Leading Consumer Lawyer, and a multi-year "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America. Outside the courtroom, he has spent decades in bar service, legislative work, legal education, and community leadership. He remains an active cyclist and race announcer for the Boise Twilight Criterium. He and his wife Ellie reside in Boise with the latest of a long string of rescued hounds.

Boyd "Mack" Mayo

Why Service: Serving the Idaho State Bar is meaningful to me because it creates space to support lawyer wellness, recovery, and honest conversations about the realities of practicing law. By sharing my own experience, strength, and hope, I can help reduce stigma, remind others they are not alone, and encourage healthier, more sustainable careers in a profession that too often normalizes burnout and isolation. This service allows me to give back in a deeply personal way—transforming challenges into purpose, fostering connection, and helping build a legal community where seeking help is viewed as a strength rather than a weakness.

Advice: I would tell my younger self that no case, client, or perception of success is worth sacrificing my health or integrity, and that asking for help is not a failure but a professional skill. I would remind myself that the law is demanding by nature, and without boundaries, connection, and self-care, it can quietly take more than it gives. I'd encourage slowing down, finding mentors who model balance and honesty, and being willing to talk openly about struggle rather than carrying it alone. Most importantly, I would say that a meaningful, sustainable career comes not from perfection or endurance at all costs, but from humility, support, and choosing recovery, wellness,

and purpose early rather than waiting until crisis forces the lesson.

Mack Mayo is a Shareholder at Paine Hamblen in Spokane, Washington, and is licensed to practice in both Idaho and Washington. He serves as Chair of the firm's Housing Law Practice Group, representing housing providers, property management companies, developers, nonprofit and mission-based organizations, and housing authorities on landlord-tenant, fair housing, and regulatory compliance matters.

Mack has extensive experience managing large unlawful detainer portfolios, advising on HUD and affordable housing programs, and litigating complex housing disputes, including appellate matters before the Washington Supreme Court. He is actively involved with the Idaho State Bar and devotes substantial time to lawyer wellness and recovery efforts, including volunteering and speaking through the Idaho Lawyers Assistance Program. Mack earned his J.D., cum laude, from Charleston School of Law and his B.A., with distinction, from Southern Methodist University.

Hon. Paige M. Nolte

Why Service: Service has always been important to me. I like to make things better for others. Helping people who are coming up behind us is important to keep a strong Bar. Helping the less fortunate is important for our society. Both have been a priority for me.

As this award is focused on my contribution to our local Idaho Women Lawyers chapter, I will write about that first. Around 2014, Victoria Olds, Marcy Spilker, and, I believe, Jamie Shropshire, arranged for a speaker from WSU who focused on gender studies to come and speak to our local chapter of Idaho Women Lawyers. It has been a long time, and the impact on me was more important than the exact numbers, but we were told that men applied for positions when they had somewhere around 50 percent of the requested qualifications while women did not apply unless they had more than 90 percent of them. That made me think about the disparity in positions and incomes that we see throughout

our country and the need to put ourselves out there if we are going to compete. A woman cannot be chosen for the position, if a woman does not apply. When Judge Olds took the bench and needed to step down from leading the local IWL chapter, I believed it was necessary to continue that group. Marcy Spilker and I ran it together until she retired and I kept it afloat until March of this year, when Kayla Hermann volunteered. I had Dr. Kmec, from WSU, come and talk with our local IWL chapter in 2024. The statistics of men vs. women in positions of authority and prestige are still very lopsided nationwide. The gap has closed a little in the 10 years, and Idaho has closed the gap in the legal field more than a lot of states. Women are putting themselves out there more, and in many areas the right person for the job is chosen rather than the right man. Education on this issue is necessary and women providing a helping hand to the next women is also necessary, in my opinion. That is why keeping IWL alive locally has been important to me.

Not just women are important in law. If we are going to have a strong Bar, we need to help all attorneys who are starting out, no matter the gender. When we were beginning our local careers, Sam Creason and I started a once a month or so group that invited all attorneys in Lewiston who had been practicing about 10 years or fewer to lunch so we could get to know each other, and help each other. We would go to different restaurants and sit next to someone we did not know well to learn more about them and their area of practice. We did that for a couple of years, and it provided contacts in all areas of law for those of us who attended.

I participate in the externship and mentor programs at the College of Law. Throughout my career, I have allowed students to complete their pro bono hours with me. I enjoy exposing law students to many different areas of law and helping them meet people. I find it rewarding to get to know them, what they want to do, and help them achieve their goals for the program. When I was a public defender, I was happy to help students get a limited license and watch their first forays into courtroom practice, or underclassmen to write strong motions and briefs. As a

judge, it is fun when they get excited to see the different areas of law to which I can expose them. Mentors are so important to every area of law. They made a huge difference for me and I definitely credit Joanna McFarland, Karin Seubert, Kelley Porter, and Dave Risley for the success I had in maintaining my law firm. It is also important to me to help educate secondary students to what we do and the importance of an independent judicial branch. I try to expose them to our legal system around Law Day each year by bringing seniors into our courtrooms to watch public hearings and I go to classrooms to talk with middle school students about what I do. All of this is important to me.

Advice: I started my own law firm right out of law school. I was lucky to have mentors in every area of practice. I would tell myself that mentors are necessary if you are going to practice alone.

Paige Nolta was born in northern California, but was raised in north Idaho in a close-knit, hard-working, and supportive family. She earned her undergraduate degree in political science from Boise State University and her J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law. Judge Nolta opened her own law firm, with assistance from friend and colleague Joanna McFarland, after being admitted to the bar in the fall of 2010. She had a general practice for two years that included everything that walked through the door, as well as conflict public defense at the Nez Perce Tribe and assisting with public defense in Nez Perce County.

In 2012, she obtained one of four public defense contracts for Nez Perce County. Judge Nolta focused on public defense, devoted to that cause for 11 years in Nez Perce County, with three of those years also in Lewis County, and she served on the Public Defense Commission as well. She worked in public defense until becoming the magistrate judge for Lewis County in 2023. Since becoming a judge, she taught a fall semester juvenile justice course for three years at the University of Idaho in tandem with Joanna McFarland and continues to work on outreach to

middle and high school students to teach them about the justice system and the importance to society of an independent judiciary. She also enjoys working with current law students as a way to help those who will succeed her and her colleagues.

Jessica Perez

Why Service: Serving my community is important to me because this is my home. I grew up in Washington and Payette County and continue to live and practice in the same area today. In many smaller communities, the automatic response when people need professional services—including legal services—is often to travel to a larger city like Boise. For many families, that drive is time-consuming and burdensome. It is important to me that people in rural communities know they have access to legal services close to home. Practicing locally is one way I can help ensure that people in my little community don't feel like they have to leave to find help they need.

Growing up, I had never met an attorney, and when I imagined what an attorney looked like, I pictured a man. I didn't realize that becoming a lawyer was even a possibility for me. Practicing in the same community where I grew up is meaningful because it allows me to show others that a legal career is possible for them as well. I hope that my interactions with the people of my community helps demonstrate that our rural communities can offer the same opportunities and professional services as larger cities. If even one young person in a small town sees that and realizes they can build a career and serve their community without leaving it behind, then that work is worth it.

Advice: The advice I would give my younger self is to not compare myself to others, trust in my own abilities and the work I have put in to get here. Early in my career, I would sometimes feel intimidated preparing for cases against attorneys who had been practicing much longer than I had or who came from prestigious law schools. In those moments, it was easy to question whether I measured up.

Jessica obtained her J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho and Oregon State Bars in 2022. She grew up in Weiser, Idaho and now works at Intermountain Law, PC in Fruitland Idaho. Jessica practices family law and general civil litigation in both Idaho and Oregon. Keeping a work life balance is extremely important to her. Jessica's time outside the office is spent with her husband and family and their pets.

Tammie D. Whyte

Why Service: Serving my community has been important to me throughout my legal career because it has provided me with different perspectives and has fostered connections with colleagues, friends, and clients. My service has let me see different perspectives and identified challenges to many in my community. I have endeavored to take that and make my service meaningful and to improve my community through my work and personal service.

Advice: Build strong relationships with other bar members and practice honestly, ethically, and with professionalism in all your dealings. In the end winning every case or argument is less important than being a role model in advancing the rule of law. Also, learn to know when you've said enough! Make your point and sit down.

Tammie received her Juris Doctorate degree from Creighton University School of Law. She was admitted to the Idaho Bar in 1992. Tammie began her legal career in the public service, spending the first few years with Idaho Legal Aid, and then transitioned to become a public defender in Bonneville County and other areas of the Seventh Judicial District. In 2003 her career took a different direction when she became Manager and Legal Counsel for Idaho Title and Trust. In 2009 Tammie established her own law firm where she spent seven years handling the legal needs of several clients liquidating a \$1.2 billion-dollar real estate portfolio in a structured transaction with the FDIC

and practiced transactional real estate and business work.

In 2018 Tammie returned to public service as the Trial Court Administrator for the 7th Judicial District, where she guided the district through the challenges of converting to the Odyssey case management system, COVID, and the judicial administrative needs of several high-profile cases that drew national attention. Tammie "retired" as the Trial Court Administrator in October 2025. However, as she puts it, she has failed at retirement and now works part time of counsel with Wright Law Offices in Idaho Falls handling transactional law matters. She is enjoying a slower pace, though, and likes travel and spending time with her first grandchild, and very soon another grandchild as well. Tammie is particularly grateful for the love and support of her husband, Mike, who she met at Creighton University and to her family. She is also humbled and honored to receive this award from the Idaho State Bar.

GROWTH — AND — STRENGTH



Hawley Troxell is pleased to announce that Matthew Bardsley has joined the firm as an Associate in the Litigation practice groups in Pocatello and Idaho Falls.

Matthew is a uniquely-experienced litigator, having spent significant portions of his career in private practice, handling both civil and criminal matters, as well as serving as a Staff Attorney for the Honorable Judge Rick Carnaroli.

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Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Awards



Top row, left to right: Kirsten Thompson – First District, Joanna McFarland – Second District, Jacob T. Welsh – Third District. Bottom row, left to right: Michelle R.W. Finch – Fourth District, A. Denise Penton – Fourth District, Justin Eckman – Seventh District.

Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Awards

The 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 to which any member of the Idaho State Bar should aspire. 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:

Why is pro bono work important to you? And what encouragement would you give fellow attorneys to participate in pro bono work?

Kirsten Thompson – First District

Why Pro Bono? There is a very large unmet need for legal services in civil matters. Early in my career I worked for Oregon Legal Services and saw many worthy cases that just couldn't be accepted for representation due to lack of resources. Later, as I worked as a trial court judge then mediator, I saw the actual dollars and cents costs of representation—so many people cannot afford legal advice, let alone representation. Pro bono work is one way to meet that need and provide some assistance to those who would otherwise rely on limited information from often unreliable sources.

Encouragement: Just do it. Volunteer to assist in a program in your area or accept

a pro bono case that would otherwise languish. You will be able to provide real help to someone who needs it, and you will receive experience and satisfaction from assisting a person or organization that needs help. I have been delighted to become an emeritus member of the Idaho State Bar, while also maintaining a pro bono membership with the Oregon State Bar. Volunteering is fun, challenging, and satisfying.

Kirsten was born and raised in the Sandpoint, Idaho, area. She attended Whitworth College (now University) in Spokane, graduating on the day that Mount Saint Helens blew! She attended Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland after working for a year or so in various jobs. After law school, Kirsten clerked in a law firm, worked for a few years for Oregon Legal

Services (Legal Aid), and was in private practice for around ten years until becoming a Circuit Court Judge in Washington County, Oregon, in 2002. She retired from full-time judicial service in 2019, served for five years as a senior judge, and operated a private mediation service. Since retirement, she has been actively involved in the development of the Licensed Paralegal program which is now part of the Oregon State Bar. Programs like this have been started in a number of states in the past few years to help meet the justice gap. She has returned to the Sandpoint area in retirement to be close to family, and the North Idaho Country that she has always loved. Idaho, Washington, and Oregon have always been her home states; the Pacific Northwest is very special. She and her husband share a blended family of four adult kids and four grandkids. They enjoy riding their horses, and being “herded” by their dog.

Joanna McFarland – Second District

Why Pro Bono? I have a strong belief that we are all empowered to love and support each other in our best and worst moments. My talents include listening with the intent to solve the problem. In my representation, there are many times where the best way to assist a client with navigating the struggles that brought them into court requires advocating for options outside the traditional bounds of the system. On those occasions where I can problem solve underlining issues that could place my clients on a path to change and long-term success, I am thrilled to see the purpose of intervention bring people happiness. I would hope that my small contribution can ripple into a catalyst of good outcomes in another person's life as I believe by our small efforts, great things can come out of the work.

Encouragement: With great power comes great responsibility. Our gifts to see a path through complex and contentious problems are necessary to help vulnerable and limited people mire through hard situations. The benefit of pro bono work is not in the form of an extra dollar, but instead the wealth of making a

difference in someone's life. The experiences in pro bono have challenges and the rewards are priceless.

Joanna loved her childhood growing up on a cattle ranch in Jerome, Idaho alongside her five siblings. Her piano-teacher mother instilled a love of music that led her to attend the University of Idaho with a music degree. She married her college sweetheart and has five children and three grandchildren. Joanna graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 2004 and entered the legal profession working for the Nez Perce County Public Defender's office from 2005-2010. After this, she maintained her private firm, McFarland Law Offices from 2010-2024, primarily representing indigent clients as a contracted public defender in the Second Judicial District. In 2024, she transitioned to the position as the Idaho State Region 2 Public Defender. Over her years in practice, she has been proud to serve the legal community by working with judges, prosecutors, court personnel, fellow attorneys, students, law enforcement, probation officers, and community resources. Currently she serves on the Treatment Court Rules Committee and serves on the board of the Youth Resource Center, and First Step for Life Resource Center. Joanna has been an attorney coach with the Lewiston High School Mock Trial team since 2020. The University of Idaho Law School has graciously allowed her to teach as an adjunct professor for two years. And she serves as a leader in her local church's youth group.

Jacob T. Welsh – Third District

Why Pro Bono? Pro bono work is important to me because I believe that integrity is the absolute foundation of the practice of law. True legal integrity means ensuring that the justice system works for everyone, not just those with the means to afford it. I am deeply driven to advocate on behalf of people who cannot advocate for themselves, particularly when a financial burden stands between them and their fundamental rights. Growing up in a small town, I saw firsthand how some of the hardest-working people, individuals who form the backbone of our neighborhoods, still struggle to make

ends meet and are left entirely vulnerable when facing legal complexities.

I have always wanted to help people and establish myself as a pillar of the community. Pro bono work is the most direct way to achieve this, as it allows me to use my specialized education to stabilize families, protect livelihoods, and prevent minor legal setbacks from spiraling into life-altering financial crises. As an attorney, I recognize that our profession holds a unique monopoly on the justice system, which gives us a profound social responsibility. I am fortunate to be in a position to bridge this gap.

My dedication to this path was permanently shaped by my late law partner, Timothy L. Fleming, who consistently reminded me that we have an obligation “to do the right thing because it's the right thing to do.” Tim's words serve as a daily reminder that every individual comes from a different background and faces unique challenges. By prioritizing pro bono work, I honor his memory, uphold the ethical soul of our profession, and actively build a more resilient, equitable community.

Encouragement: I would remind my fellow attorneys that pro bono work is not merely an act of charity; it is an economic and professional catalyst that elevates our entire practice. While it serves the highest ethical standards of legal integrity, it also provides profound, practical benefits to the attorneys who participate.

For newer attorneys, pro bono service acts as an unparalleled accelerator for professional development. It offers hands-on, high-stakes experiences—such as leading client counseling sessions, drafting critical motions, and managing courtroom advocacy—far earlier than standard billable tracks typically allow. For established practitioners, it serves as a powerful tool for building a reputation and an influential professional network. Collaborative pro bono projects connect us with judges, corporate leaders, and community stakeholders, creating deep bonds rooted in shared values rather than transactional business.

More than anything, pro bono work restores our sense of purpose and counteracts professional burnout. It strips

away the sterile, administrative layers of daily practice and reconnects us with the human element of law—reminding us why we chose this path in the first place. By stepping up to advocate for those facing severe financial burdens, we don't just change individual lives; we collectively establish the legal community as a trusted, foundational pillar of society.

After graduating from Boise State University, Jacob attended Concordia University School of Law, where he obtained his Juris Doctorate with the invaluable support of the Cassidy Amano Freedman-Welsh Scholarship Fund. He was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 2020.

From the very beginning, Jacob's legal career was profoundly shaped by the mentorship of his late law partner, Timothy L. Fleming. Under his guidance, Jacob developed a comprehensive, ground-up understanding of the legal system, progressing through roles as a legal assistant, paralegal, and limited licensed intern before ultimately becoming an attorney. This rigorous practical training, paired with Tim's deeply ingrained philosophies on ethical practice, solidified his belief that integrity must be the cornerstone of every legal matter.

Today, Jacob's practice is defined by a commitment to rigorous advocacy and a devotion to public service. He continuously strives to balance a sophisticated legal practice with robust pro bono initiatives, ensuring that financial barriers do not block access to justice. Through this work, he is dedicated to honoring his mentor's legacy, helping those in need, and establishing himself as a permanent, supportive pillar of the Idaho legal and local community.

Michelle R.W. Finch – Fourth District

Why Pro Bono? Pro bono work, especially in the area of acting as a guardian ad litem attorney for a minor child or an incapacitated adult, is important to me, as it provides me with the opportunity to use the knowledge that I have gained through my practice in guardianship and conservatorship matters. In many instances, family members or grandparents are stepping up to become guardians of a minor child and are doing so with limited financial

resources. I have had a diverse practice for over 40 years but have found a passion in guardianship matters. I have been able to use my skills to help families bridge gaps in resources and communications for the best interest of a child or incapacitated adult. The ability to make a tangible difference through pro bono works is a reward that cannot be measured in dollars.

Encouragement: The reward of taking on a pro bono case through the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program (IVLP), or volunteering your time in other ways through IVLP, is a gift that we, as attorneys, can give back to our community. It may be one phone call, one hour, or it may be a more significant time commitment, but making a difference will provide joy in your practice.

Michelle R. Finch is a 1985 graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law. She was admitted to practice in Idaho in 1985 and is also admitted to practice in Montana. Michelle is a principal and senior attorney at Gravis Law, PLLC practicing in Idaho and Montana, primarily in the areas of guardianship, probate, family law, and estate planning. Michelle is a member and past chairperson of the Idaho State Bar Trust, Taxation and Probate Section. She serves on the Idaho Supreme Court's Guardianship and Conservatorship Committee. Michelle was a chairperson of the Ada County Board of Community Guardians and a former member of the Canyon County Organization on Aging.

A. Denise Penton – Fourth District

Why Pro Bono? I have volunteered through most of my professional career. I found that there is such a high need for people who are in distress. So many times, people misunderstand the law, what can and can't be done, and what real solutions look like. These are people who are easily taken advantage of because they lack knowledge about the law. They are often the most vulnerable and have the highest need. It isn't always easy to volunteer, but the small amount of time I give to others can put them in such a better place and make a real difference to the problems they face.

Encouragement: Pro bono work is a great place to try an area of law that you aren't quite sure of, but know that there is a need. If you don't know the answer, you probably know how to work through a solution or find someone who does know. Our professional bar is so giving and free with their advice when you reach out to ask for help, especially when they hear it is for someone who can't help themselves. It can be so rewarding to hear someone who is lost appreciate the help and see the look of relief replace fear and uncertainty.

Denise has been practicing law for over 30 years. She graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. Denise was born and raised in Idaho. In her career, she has been a prosecuting attorney and public defender before moving into private practice. She is a general practitioner with an emphasis in Family Law and Immigration law. Denise is a family law mediator and a parenting coordinator as well.

Justin Eckman – Seventh District

Why Pro Bono? Pro bono work is important to me because when I was growing up, my family, friends, and neighbors didn't have the resources to afford attorneys. Not being able to afford an attorney did not make their legal problems disappear. It just meant they had to navigate a confusing legal system on their own without any meaningful guidance. I am passionate about pro bono both because there is a financial barrier to legal services for many of the most vulnerable Idahoans and because I often think that, but for a few lucky rolls of the dice, I could be in a similar situation where I could not afford legal representation. I think it really boils down to some variation of the golden rule—if I was in the shoes of most of the Idahoans who seek pro bono services I would want an attorney to be willing to volunteer their time and talents to help me. So, I am determined to fill that role for others.

Encouragement: I think there are strong practical and professional benefits to pro bono work. Practically, attorneys should be contributing to make the communities we practice in stronger and better. Pro bono work creates opportunities to

interact with and impact members of our communities that we would never otherwise reach. And the more we can help all members of our communities the stronger our communities become.

Professionally, we do not practice in a bubble. Community members who need pro bono assistance have friends, family members, and neighbors. And the people we serve through pro bono work talk about how they were treated, their impressions of attorneys in general, and the service pro bono attorneys provide. Individuals I have helped through pro bono work have given

me referrals, references, and opened doors I never would have known existed but for pro bono work.

There is also a personal connection to pro bono work that is sometimes missing in my other legal work. Pro bono clients are always genuinely grateful, even when you give them bad news or information that is difficult to hear. That personal connection and gratitude is what keeps me anchored to pro bono work.

A native Idahoan and graduate of South Fremont High School, Justin Eckman is an attorney at Parsons Behle & Latimer

whose practice focuses on estate planning, special needs planning, trust and estate litigation, and medical malpractice defense. Justin received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University-Idaho before attending law school at the University of Utah and joining Parsons in 2024. Prior to law school, Justin worked in the health insurance industry with a focus on mental health services reimbursement. Outside of work, Justin tries to spend as much time as he can golfing with his wife, Amber, and losing at Mario-Kart to his son, Remington.

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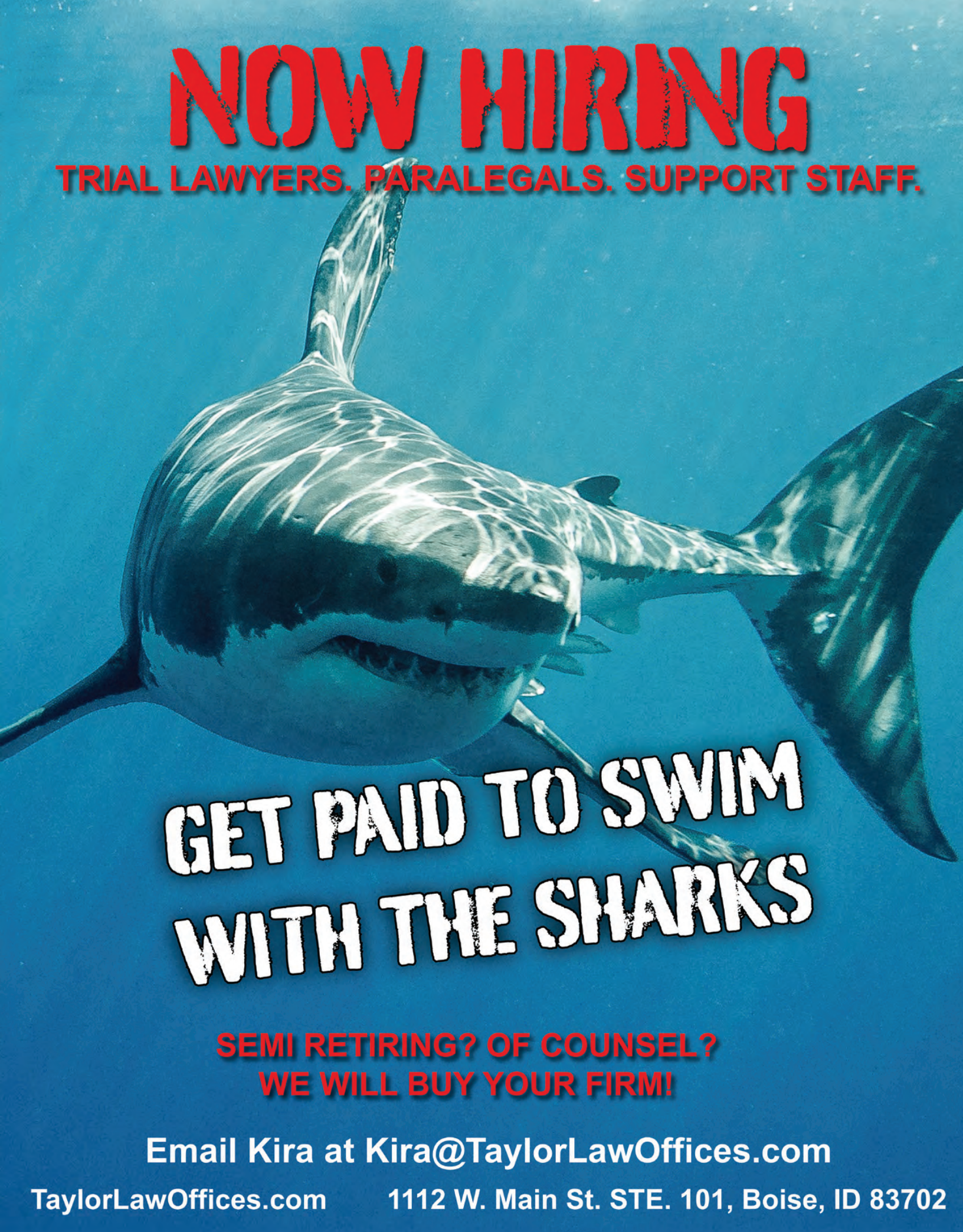


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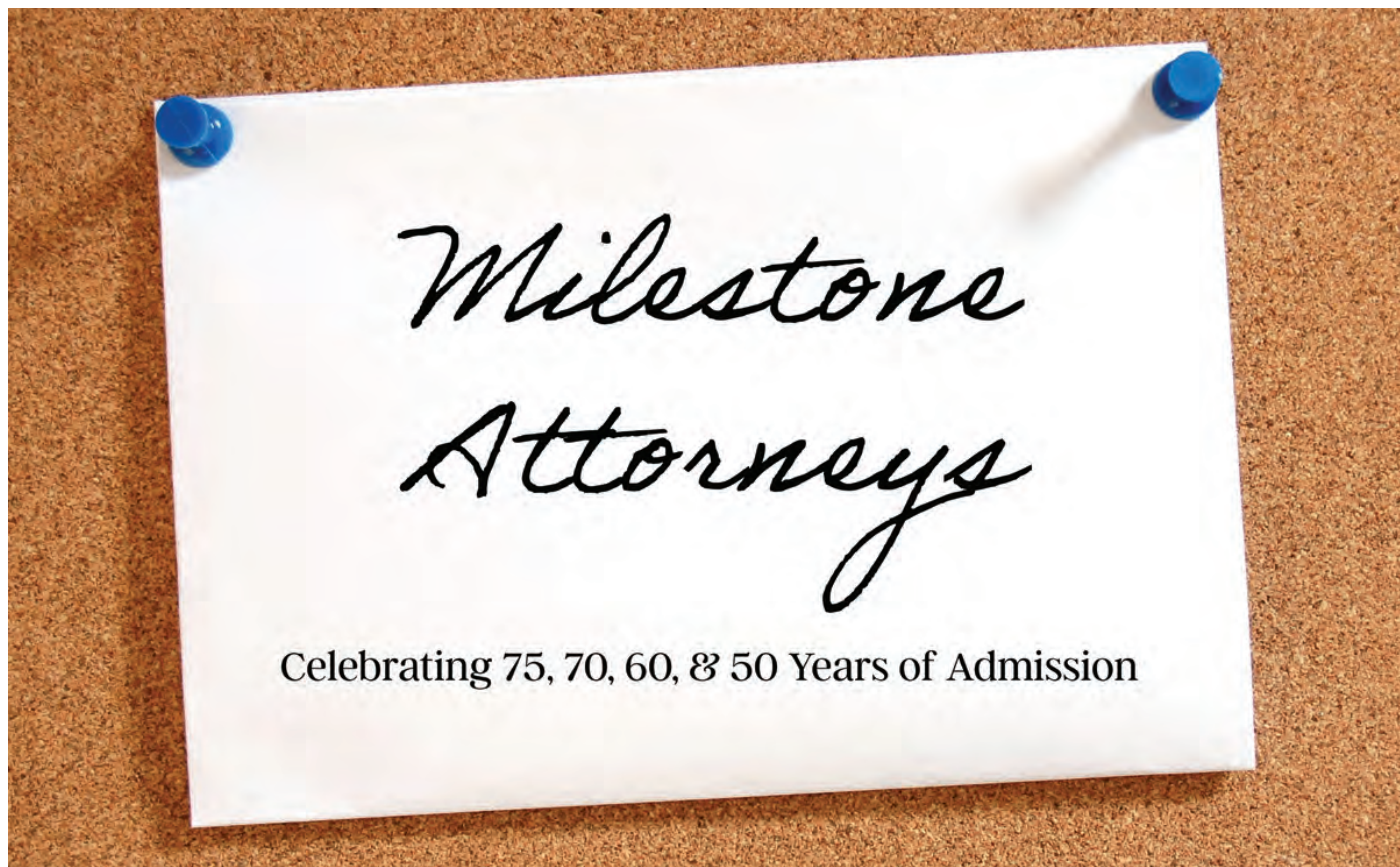
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Milestone Attorneys

The following several pages honor members of the Idaho State Bar who have been admitted for 75, 70, 60, and 50 years. We do our best to reach everyone on this list to include their comments. Thank you to all who submitted material to be included in this section of the magazine.

Milestone Awards: 75 Years

James C. Blanton

James C. Blanton went to the University of Idaho College of Law. James lives in Boise.

Milestone Awards: 70 Years

Robert E. Bakes

Justice Bakes is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law in

1956, the first class to graduate. He has had a very full career including being an instructor at University of Illinois Law School, Deputy prosecuting attorney for Ada County, tax attorney with the Idaho Attorney General's office, Assistant United States Attorney for Idaho, seven years of private practice in Boise, 21 years as a Justice and Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court and, finally, 20 years of post-judicial service as an arbitrator and mediator in Boise and across the country.

Justice Bakes was chairman of the Appellate Judges Conference of the American Bar Association, Chairman and Faculty of the Appellate Judges Conference Judges Education Program, and President of the Idaho Law Foundation.



In his free time, Justice Bakes enjoyed being a musician with the Boise Philharmonic Orchestra and the Meridian Idaho Symphony, as well as a musician in the orchestras of several Boise Music Week productions. He also sang with the Boise Master Chorale and was a musician with the Boise Old Tyme Fiddlers.

Robert and his wife Lurleen have been married for 67 years and have five daughters. He enjoys gardening in his home greenhouse, hunting, fishing, waterskiing, and camping. Justice Bakes has also authored and published several articles on global warming and short stories on World War II. He has enjoyed several trips with the Boise State Music Department to other countries. Bakes also spent 18 months in missionary service in Australia and New Zealand.

Milestone Awards: 60 Years

E. Don Copple

E. Don Copple graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Boise.

Fredrick D. Decker

Fred Decker received his bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Idaho. After graduation, he worked for a short time for the US General Accounting Office in San Francisco, CA. It was during that time he decided to pursue a law degree by returning to the University of Idaho College of Law. After law school, he was employed by the Parry, Robertson, Daly & Larson law firm in Twin Falls, subsequently becoming a partner of the firm.

After the dissolution of the firm, he formed a partnership with William R. Hollifield where he practiced law until his retirement in 1991. Fred served as a Director and President of the Idaho Law Foundation.

After retirement, Fred continued to serve his community by being a part of many volunteer organizations. Among which was serving 40 years on the Idaho Health Facilities Authority, Habitat for Humanities, being instrumental in forming Filer Rural Fire District and serving as Commissioner and President for 21 years, participated in the organization and continued fund raising for the Scottish Rite Childhood Learning Center in Twin Falls. He resides in Twin Falls with his wife, Neta.

Jack Gjording

Born and raised in Idaho, Jack graduated from Glenns Ferry High School in 1957. At the University of Idaho, he received



Jack and his wife, Trudy.

a bachelor's degree in 1961. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1963. Part of that tour of duty was spent in Germany where he was "bitten by the travel bug." He returned to the University of Idaho College of Law and obtained a J.D. in 1966. He located in Boise where he practiced until his retirement in 2025.

Primarily a defense trial lawyer, Jack represented defendants in over 75 percent of Idaho's 44 counties. He tried jury trials in over half of those counties. He considers himself fortunate to have practiced during those years when active trial lawyers tried several jury trials every year. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and an Advocate of the American Board of Trial Advocates. In 2017 he was recognized as one of Idaho's Distinguished Lawyers. In 2019 he received the Carl Burke Award for Excellence in Legal Defense.

Jack and Trudy Hanson Fouser have been married for over 30 years. Between them they have six children and 11 grandchildren. Jack has two great-grandchildren. With such a large family, it is curious that the only pictures saved on his cell phone are of his two beloved dogs, Zena and Gunther! For 26 years, Trudy and Jack practiced together at Gjording Fouser. They have traveled extensively in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Among their travels were six bicycle trips in Italy, France, Ireland, the Czech Republic, and Germany (before electric bikes!), and four European river cruises. Jack's favorite river cruise took them from St. Petersburg to Moscow, Russia.

Jack made several life-long friends while in law school. In recent years, he met regularly with law school classmates, Craig Meadows, Bart Harwood and Max Eiden to enjoy a glass of wine and talk about the "good old days." As Max passed away in 2025, (and because of their advancing age) the remaining group decided they needed to meet more frequently. Now, they meet once a week. Every week, Craig schedules a "Tuesday CLE Meeting." They agree that their 60-year run has been good.

Gary M. Haman

Gary Haman did not start out to become a lawyer. His parents both gradu-



Gary at home in Coeur d'Alene.

ated from high school in north Idaho and neither went to college, but it was expected that he and his brother would. He decided to enroll in chemical engineering courses at North Idaho Junior College in 1956. Five years later, he had graduated with his degree. During that time, he met his wife, Anita, and they had their daughter, Laura. The family moved to Renton, Washington, where Gary worked for Boeing. After a few years he decided he wasn't satisfied and returned to school to study law.

In 1963, Gary became part of the largest incoming law class at the University of Idaho College of Law. At the end of the first semester, he was first in his class and stayed there until graduating with his Juris Doctorate, cum laude. He notes that none of that would have been possible without his parents. While in school Gary and Anita also had their son, Joe, who thankfully waited to make his debut until Christmas break of 1963. Their second son, Mike, came along after Gary graduated.

Gary had thought about applying for law firms in Boise, but decided he wanted to go home. He started knocking on doors of lawyers in Coeur d'Alene and finally got lucky when attorney Sidney E. Smith hired him while he ran for Lieutenant Governor. After passing the bar exam, he began the life of a small town lawyer and learned how to practice law by doing it.

About a year after law school, Gary was offered an unusual second job. He was approached by then acting Dean of the Law School to come teach a one hour evening class on natural resources, water, and mining law. He liked the money, so he did it. In 1968 he was then asked to run for the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney of Kootenai County. In 1968, this was a part time position. He had no opponent and won in a landslide and served two years. During that time, the judicial system in Idaho and Kootenai County changed greatly. The state's population doubled, gone were city judges, probate judges, and the numerous justices of the peace, who quite often held court in living rooms. Along the way, Gary had become president of the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

In 1982, Gary was appointed as a new district judge in the First Judicial District where he served until July 4, 2000, when he retired. During his time there he was president of the Idaho District Judges Association and served as the Administrative District Judge of the First Judicial District for over 12 years.

In January 2004, Gary's wife, Anita, passed away from cancer and his life came to a halt. A few years later Gary remarried Elizabeth Ann, who had been his clerk for the last 15 years of his judicial career. Her husband had also passed away shortly before Anita. Elizabeth Ann had saved his life. They have a lot in common and have traveled the world during the last 20 years and will continue to do so as long as their health permits.

Carl D. Hamilton

Carl D. Hamilton graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Nampa with his wife, Lynell.

James C. Herndon

James C. Herndon graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Coeur d'Alene.

Rjay Lloyd

Rjay Lloyd was born August 23, 1936, and was raised on a ranch in Soda Springs,

Idaho. He graduated from high school as senior class president in 1955, and in 1959, he married Sara Ann Mickelson, a farm girl from Grace, Idaho.

He attended Utah State University and Brigham Young University before transferring to the University of Utah where he earned a B.S. in accounting and then received his J.D. in 1966 from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. He later continued his education at New York University, receiving an LL.M. in Taxation. Upon settling in Boise, he was the only lawyer in Idaho holding a CPA, a J.D., and an LL.M. in taxation, and often remarked that his one year of tax education was worth ten years of practice.

He began his career as a tax manager with Ernst & Ernst where he worked for four years. In 1970, he opened his law and CPA firm, "Rjay Lloyd Chartered," specializing in taxation, corporations and partnerships, business and real estate planning, wills and trusts, probate and estate matters, and pension, profit-sharing, and retirement law. He is a member of the Arid Club, a Bronco Stadium Lifetime member, contributing to new construction in 1969, and is recognized as a reputable attorney by Martindale Hubble.

His Boise clients included Norco Inc., Boise Pediatrics Associates, Boise Neurological Clinic, P.A., Micron Inc., Peterson Motor Company, First Security Bank of Idaho, Twin Falls Tractor and Implement, and Latham Chrysler/Plymouth Motor, Inc.

His major Arizona client was Forever Living Products & Resorts (FLP) in Scottsdale. While still practicing in Idaho, Rjay was vital to igniting the company's growth by traveling the world extensively, including meeting with each state's Attorneys General, which helped grow FLP to the largest privately held company in Arizona with operations in 160 countries, millions of distributors worldwide, and \$4 billion in revenue in 2021.

In January 1995, he closed his Boise office and relocated to Scottsdale, Arizona, where he became Vice President and CFO of FLP. Serving in this significant executive leadership role allowed him to apply his knowledge and expertise in financial planning, risk management, investment deci-



Rjay with his family.

sions, and strategic planning to further grow the company in the competitive wellness industry. Today this company is still growing worldwide. A highlight of his career was being the successful bidder at the auction for the "Dallas" television series Southfork Ranch in Plano, Texas, where he remarked, "I'm RJ, and I'm here to buy out JR."

Rjay is an avid golfer and hunter, with his travels including expeditions to Africa. He is also a passionate fisherman and owned a fishing lodge in Alaska for 25 years. Additionally, he flew a Cessna 210 private aircraft for both work and pleasure. Rjay and Ann raised four daughters and a nephew in Boise, where their children attended Fairmont Junior High and Capital High School. They have 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. They are now retired and have made their home in Paradise Valley, Arizona, for the past 30 years.

Kenneth E. Lyon Jr.

Ken Lyon became interested in studying law after obtaining the highest marks following a one-hour speech he delivered for his debate class at San Francisco State (some say he never stopped talking after that). Ken went on to graduate from law school at the University of Utah S.J.

Quinney College of Law and moved his family to Pocatello where he started his legal career as an associate for Mark Clark and later for Ben Peterson. Ken's practice included a tenure as an assistant prosecutor with



Ken Lyon's law school graduation headshot.

Garth Pincock. He also represented Bannock County, overseeing its medical indigency program, as well as the Department of Health and Welfare in child support enforcement. In 1993, Ken partnered with his son, and they practiced together as Lyon & Lyon until his son moved to Reno in 1999.

Somewhat unique by today's standards, Ken's private practice was very diverse. He handled cases involving family law, estates, bankruptcy, criminal defense, personal injury, patents, and business litigation. Ken represented clients in both the state and federal courts. Whether his client was a plaintiff or a defendant, Ken's practice was always focused on helping with the client's individual legal needs, as exemplified when he successfully passed the Utah bar at age 70 just so he could represent one of his clients who had moved to Utah and needed legal help. As a result of Ken's personal attention, many of his clients also ended up being lifelong friends. Ken was honored by the ISB multiple times for his pro bono bankruptcy work and later served on the ISB's disciplinary review board.

Ken's other passions include hunting, fishing, gardening, and travel. Despite health issues which limited his mobility, Ken's enthusiasm for life has never diminished. He is currently enjoying retirement in Meridian and has taken up painting. He is also getting ready to celebrate his 65th wedding anniversary with his wife, Bev. Ken and Bev, recently went on a Mediterranean cruise and are relishing the increasing number of great-grandchildren they are adding to their family tree. Ken always loved the practice of law and the people he was able to help and inter-

act with and will still give a good debate to anyone who is up for the challenge, and if not, at least provide them with a good hunting or fishing story.

Craig L. Meadows

Craig Meadows first served two years as a law clerk to Judge Fred M Taylor, USDC Idaho. He then practiced for 58 years at Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley. His practice was primarily in litigation, legal malpractice, aviation, insurance coverage, product liability and, some professional medical malpractice.

Craig served as a commissioner and president of the Idaho State Bar. He also served as president and director of the Idaho Law Foundation. He served as president and director of The Friends of Idaho Public Television for nine years. In 1990 he was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers as a Fellow.

Craig married Camille Meadows 31 years ago. Between the two of them they have 14 grandchildren. Camille had seven granddaughters and Craig has six grandsons and one granddaughter. Their life was centered around their grandchildren. Camille passed away in January leaving the family with grief but realizing her wonderful legacy. Camille and Craig enjoyed family, friends, golf and traveling.

John S. Simko

John Simko was born and raised in Chicago and came to the University of Idaho on an athletic scholarship in 1957, and not only fell in love with Idaho, but graduated from U of I in 1961 with a commission in the U.S. Navy; married his wife, Bethel, and left for his ship in Pearl Harbor,



all within three weeks. While at sea (a lot), Bethel taught school in Honolulu.

John never planned on law school, but Bethel urged him to give it a try, as she did not see him very much in the two years of his tour of duty. It turned out to be the best decision of their lives.

John joined the staff of the Attorney General's Office in August 1966, and in 1967 Elam, Burke, Jeppesen & Evans for the next 17 years. At Elam & Burke John worked closely with Carl Burke on their clients. In 1967 the firm was representing Sunshine Mining Company when, on May 2, 1972, a fire at the mine resulted in the deaths of 92 miners. John began to devote significant time to Sunshine Mining operations and the takeover of the Company by the Hunt Brothers in the silver boom of the mid-70s. John devoted significant time on the litigation between co-owners of the mine involving the Apex rights of locator under the Mining Law of 1872. After the takeover litigation was concluded, John worked on acquisition of mining properties in Utah and Nevada and an oil and gas exploration and production company in Oklahoma. Sunshine asked John to join the Company in 1984 and he left Elam & Burke to become an executive of Sunshine in Dallas, Texas. After a continuous fall in silver and oil prices in the early 1990s, John spent several years restructuring the company's significant debt. After winding up, he was made CEO and relocated the company's headquarters to Boise, Idaho.

John retired from Sunshine in 2002. He and Bethel began to spend six to eight months a year at their home in Litchfield Park, Arizona. He joined Evans Keane to be of counsel with his friend, Jim Hovren, who was Sunshine's counsel for most of its corporate financing, SEC reporting, and dealings with the NYSE.

In 2024, Evans Keane moved their practice to Elam & Burke and John became of counsel at the firm until 2025, when he took senior status. Elam & Burke gave John the privilege of retiring from the private practice of law at the place where it all began. He is eternally grateful.

Bethel passed away in 2020, and John returned to Idaho full time to be with his



daughter in Eagle, Idaho and his grandson, a fireman/paramedic in Idaho Falls. His son and granddaughters live in UBE, Japan.

Milestone Awards: 50 Years

Ryan Peter Armbruster

After working for three years at the Boise City Attorney's Office and solidifying his expertise of urban renewal projects, Ryan Armbruster began working with the Boise Redevelopment Agency, later renamed Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC). In 1979, he joined Elam and Burke and practiced there for 46 years, retiring June 2025. He served two terms as managing director as well as serving on the firm's executive committee for many years.

Representing CCDC, Ryan aided in the redevelopment of downtown Boise with significant projects including the Ada County Courthouse, surrounding buildings, and the revamping of Eighth Street Marketplace. He assisted in the implementation of Idaho's Urban Renewal Law and Economic Development Act and the formation of the Redevelopment Association of Idaho. His efforts have facilitated the completion of key projects

in Idaho Falls, Heyburn, Jerome, Garden City, and Ketchum. The Idaho Municipal Attorneys awarded the "Will Herrington Career of Service Award" in 2021, recognizing Ryan's contribution and career of service to the profession of municipal law.

Born on the South Side of Chicago, thus a lifelong White Sox fan, much like Pope Leo, Ryan met his wife, Terry, on a blind date and was married soon thereafter. Terry retired after 30 years as a legal secretary. They were blessed with two sons, Joe and Dane—both graduated from the University of Washington. Though neither one followed Ryan's footsteps in the law, both are professionals which rely on knowledge of the law.

Once settled in Boise, Ryan became a lifelong supporter of Boise State University, serving on the Bronco Athletic Association Board for several years and chaired the Association's endowment committee for over 15 years. He became a certified soccer referee and officiated matches at various levels for 17 years, with his sons also refereeing. Terry and Ryan were introduced to international travel by their best friends and visited Europe on numerous trips. His happy place is Piran, Slovenia. I cherish spending time with Terry, sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren in Boise, McCall, and San Diego. Future travel plans include throwing a dart on a map of the United States!

Breck H. Barton

Breck Barton's graduated from the J. Ruben Clark Law School and determined that he wanted to practice somewhere on the west coast with a law firm that did mostly business practices with emphasis on securities as well as anti-trust law. Because he was in the charter class of the J. Ruben Clark Law School, and the law school was not yet accredited, the law firms he spoke with in San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle did not offer him a position even though his academic performance had been sufficient to merit consideration.

Breck was discouraged and returned home to Rexburg, Idaho, where he was offered a position with the local law firm, Rigby Thatcher Andrus, for whom he had clerked during the summer of his

junior and senior year. Breck accepted the position, as he had substantial student loans and dove into the practice, literally, because the Teton Dam failed and inundated most of the town, relieving it of all older homes that were within the price range he and his wife could afford. The first four or five years of the practice were devoted to representing clients and claims for reimbursement due to the failure of the Teton Dam.

Breck also had a taste of criminal defense work and of plaintiff's injury, negligence, and product claims as one of the partners at the firm, Gordon Thatcher. He was very active in the formation and development of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association.

Breck left the firm and began his own practice in 1981, not knowing whether he would survive or have to flee the friendly environs of the town he grew up in. Providence smiled and they were able to establish a practice, go forward, and make an adequate living. Breck became active in the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association ultimately serving as its president from 2003 to 2004 and was presented the Trial Lawyer of the Year award in 2008 by the ITLA.

Breck was able to stay married to his very patient wife and raise five children, one of which was special needs and is still with them. After 50 years of practice, he can now look forward to a respite enjoying golf, hunting, fishing, and cooking with his son, Keith, and his wife, Maurie. The most notable achievement in his career has been being able to manage, adapt, and grow in several areas of practice beginning with criminal defense, then to collections, then to injury and accident claims, and then to medical negligence claims. All during this time he was blessed to be able to manage the practice, the private life, marriage, and family in a reasonably successful fashion.

His family life includes satisfaction and a measure of pride in their children. Three are medical providers, one is his best friend who still puts up with Breck in the house, and one will embark on teaching chemistry in her town's high school in approximately three more years when her family is gone.

Education has been a very important part of Breck's life. All their children are



Ryan in Piran, Slovenia.

educated and have advanced degrees in science and health care. They've all been more successful than Breck, and, candidly, are better people than him in their humor, comportment, and language.

Providence has blessed them abundantly. The Bar has been collegial and generally kind. The practice has been rewarding as well as challenging and he is ready for a break.

Larry Clyel Berry

Clyel Berry was originally hired as an associate by Emil F. Pike, in Twin Falls, Idaho. Thereafter they formed the partnership of Pike and Berry, which continued for several years. Upon the termination of the partnership, he practiced as L. Clyel Berry, Chartered, sharing office space with Emil until his death. Thereafter, Clyel continued with the LLC for many years. Upon determining to close his office, he was invited to join the firm of Stephan, Kvanvig, Stone and Trainor as of counsel until his retirement. Following retirement, Clyel and wife reside on Robinson Bar Ranch adjacent to the Cecil D. Andrus-White Cloud Wilderness in central Idaho, purchased by his son from Carole King. Throughout his career his practice was mainly in the areas of personal injury and workers' compensation.

Other than maintaining his license for 50 years, he is most proud of his

representation of Defendants, Reed, in *Farmers Insurance Group v. Reed*, 109 Idaho 849, on rehearing, which voided the "family exclusion" clause found in virtually every Idaho motor vehicle policy issued in Idaho.

Clyel and his wife, Jill, were married in 1970. After achieving his law degree, they moved to Twin Falls, where they resided, until moving to Robinson Bar Ranch. Clyel and Jill have two sons, Jacob and Matthew. Jake earned his MBA at Seattle University while Matt achieved his J.D. at the University of Washington, in Seattle. They each graduated on the same day and continue to reside and work in the Seattle area, and each have two amazing children.

He and his wife enjoy traveling. For over 20 years, they were vacationers in Ixtapa, Mexico, with their sons. After their sons could no longer accompany them due to higher education, they continued to travel to Mexico; the Dominican Republic; and, for the last nine years, to Roatan, an Island offshore of Honduras. Last year, they were invited by their son to join his family in a photo safari in Kenya.

Clyel notes that the practice of law has been amazingly rewarding. He couldn't imagine another profession that he would have enjoyed more or allowed his family the opportunities it has. He would also like to thank Russ Kvanvig for allowing me to retire gradually while remaining somewhat productive.

Stephen Blaser

Stephen Blaser graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Shelley with his wife, Andrea.

Randall C. Budge

Randy Budge retired in 2022 from the practice of law after 46 years specializing in real estate, business, estate planning, probate, and trust administration and natural resources law, particularly water rights. Raised on a family cattle ranch along the Bear River in southeast Idaho, he developed a strong work ethic and a deep appreciation for natural resources, which have significantly influenced his legal career.

Throughout his career Randy represented major irrigation, agriculture, and mining enterprises in eastern Idaho. He served as lead counsel in significant water disputes between surface and ground water users across southern Idaho, representing groundwater districts that irrigate nearly a million acres. His strategic approach has helped clients avoid curtailment amid ongoing litigation and severe drought conditions.

He is admitted to practice before all Idaho state and federal courts, has argued multiple cases before the Idaho Supreme Court, and regularly appeared before the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Snake River Basin Adjudication Court, and Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Randy served on the Idaho Fish & Game Commission from 2006 to 2014, reflecting his passion for hunting and fishing. He is an avid skier and was a ski patroller for 52 years serving on the National Ski Patrol Board of Directors and as First Assistant National Chairman. He is currently on the Board of Directors of Bear Lake Watch and was a founding member on the board of Portneuf Valley Tennis Association.

Randy and his wife, Becky, have been JHCC members since about 1986. He is also an active member of his church, a dedicated husband to his wife, Becky, and a proud grandfather of fifteen grandchildren.

Randy holds a B.S. in finance and economics from Utah State University and a J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law.

Alan D. Cameron

Alan Camron was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy upon his graduation from the University of Idaho in January 1970. He served on active duty until August 1973, when he entered the University of Idaho College of Law. Upon passing the Bar, Alan was employed as a Deputy Prosecuting



Clyel on the streets of Paris.

Attorney for Ada County. Following public service, he joined Clemons, Cosho, Humphrey, and Samuelson where he practiced law for the next five years. In 1982, he left that firm to join Howard Manweiler and Jim Bevis in practice. Throughout his years of practice, Alan focused primarily on the representation of credit unions and their state trade association in state and federal courts, the state legislature, and Congress.

In February 2000, Alan retired from the active practice of law and assumed the position of President and CEO of the Idaho Credit Union League, the trade association for Idaho's credit unions. In this capacity, he led the association in the many ways it provides service to credit unions, continued to represent credit unions in the legislature and Congress, and became more active in national credit union activities. In 2008, Alan was appointed to serve on the Federal Reserve Board's Consumer Advisory Council, which had the responsibility to advise the Federal Reserve Board on matters relating to consumer protection.

During his legal and business career, Alan served in the U.S. Naval Reserve for over 30 years, retiring in February 2000 with the rank of Captain. He was also active in a variety of community affairs. Among other things, Alan served for over 20 years on the board of Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Inc., a nonprofit consumer financial counseling service, including many

years as its Chair. He was also active in various public service organizations, including Rotary, where he chaired the "Friends of the Pioneer Cemetery" committee that organized the rehabilitation of Pioneer Cemetery in conjunction with the Boise City Parks Department during the Idaho centennial celebration in 1989.

Alan retired from the Idaho Credit Union League in June 2013. Since then, his wife, Janet, and he have enjoyed retirement, travelling to many places in their motor home and on several cruises. In their blended family, they have five children, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, residing in Boise.

Phillip K. Chattin

Phillip Chattin graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law. He resides in Eagle.

E. Brian Chernecke

E. Brian Chernecke graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in San Leon, TX.

Steven L. Clark

Steven Clark graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Idaho Falls with his wife, Birgit.

Terry C. Copple

Terry Copple graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Boise with his wife, Susan.

William J. Douglas

William "Bill" James Douglas and his wife, Geri, have been married 52 years and have three sons residing in Coeur d'Alene and Meridian. Bill graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law.

Following his admission to the Idaho State Bar, Bill served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) as both trial and defense counsel in Germany, Alaska, and Washington, D.C. Notably, he tried his first murder case while stationed in Alaska.



After active-duty service, he continued as a JAG officer in the U.S. Army Reserves. During this period, Bill was elected to five terms as the Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney, and he also served on the Idaho Peace Officers Training Council and as President of the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

Bill tried several high-profile cases including the on-duty murder of Idaho State Trooper, Linda Huff. As an inaugural founding member of the Idaho Medal of Honor Committee, he nominated Trooper Huff for Idaho's first Medal of Honor. Following his tenure as Prosecuting Attorney, Bill served as the Chief Trial Judge for the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. While he has retired from that role, he maintains an active Idaho law license.

William is proud of his service to his community and nation as a member of the Idaho State Bar.

William J. Fitzgerald

William Fitzgerald graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Lewiston with his wife, Debra.

Fred M. Gibler

Fred Gibler graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He practiced law in Kellogg from 1976 until 2001. The law firm underwent name changes over the years, starting as Brown Peacock Keane and Boyd, and ending as Evans Keane. His practice consisted of routine matters as any small-town lawyer does. It also involved representation of



Alan and his wife, Janet.

mining interests in and around Shoshone County including environmental and mine safety issues. In 2012, Fred was appointed by Governor Kempthorne to the position of District Court Judge in the First Judicial District. The chambers were in Wallace, but the position required work in all five northern counties with the bulk of it being in Kootenai County.

In 2016, he became a Plan B Judge and thereafter a Senior Judge until retiring in 2022. Fred enjoyed practicing law, but the work as a District Court Judge was particularly satisfying.

Fred and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 54 years. They have three sons and three grandchildren. For the last 40 years, they have resided in Kingston, Idaho.

Jerry J. Goicoechea

Born and raised in Boise, Jerry Goicoechea was the first of 11 children. After graduating from Bishop Kelly High School, he attended the University of Idaho and later earned his J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1976. Fresh out of law school and working in the Boise City Attorney's Office, Jerry received a phone call that would change the course of his career. His great-uncle, a shepherd, had suffered severe burns from scalding cooking water at a campfire and was left unable to return to work because his injuries prevented him from riding a horse. Desperate for help with his workers' compensation claim, he asked Jerry to represent him.

Jerry initially explained that he knew nothing about workers' compensation law. But his uncle, unable to work and unable to find anyone willing to take his case, urged Jerry to learn the area of law and represent

him in exchange for a percentage of any recovery. Jerry agreed, and after successfully securing a settlement for his uncle, he discovered both the importance of the work and the need for skilled representation in the field.

Recognizing the lack of efficient and effective legal help for injured workers, Jerry founded Goicoechea Law Offices in 1979 and began actively seeking the workers' compensation cases that other attorneys did not want or were too busy to handle. With free consultations and contingency-based fees, his practice provided accessible legal representation to middle- and lower-income individuals who might otherwise forgo legal counsel.

Finding a legal niche was one key to Jerry's success; another was treating his law practice like a business. Understanding the importance of reaching the public, he embraced legal advertising as a way to educate people about their rights and make legal services more accessible. Although his approach initially drew criticism from some other attorneys in the community who viewed advertising as unprofessional, Jerry maintained that professionalism was not determined by advertising but by the quality of representation and the care with which attorneys treat their clients.

Jerry's efforts proved successful, and over the years, he guided his firm from a single-office operation in Boise to a network of offices across the region focused on workers' compensation and personal injury claims. Throughout his career, Jerry remained deeply committed to representing injured workers and their families while advancing the field of workers' compensation law. He helped establish the Workers' Compensation Section of the Idaho State Bar and continued his efforts to improve access to legal information and services in underserved communities, including collaborating with the Mexican Consulate to educate and advise migrant farmworkers regarding their rights in labor-related cases. Under Jerry's leadership, his firm became a strong advocate for injured workers throughout Idaho, securing numerous favorable decisions before the Idaho Industrial Commission and Idaho Supreme Court that significantly advanced workers' rights.



Jerry retired in November 2023 and lives in Boise with his wife of 53 years, Judi. Together they have four children and five grandchildren.

Stephen S. Hart

It has been Stephen Hart's great privilege to practice law in Idaho Falls, the surrounding area, and throughout the State of Idaho for the past 50 years.

Stephen and his sweetheart wife of 55 years, Kathy, attended the same high school in Salt Lake City, graduating in 1970. They were married a year later. Stephen graduated magna cum laude from the University of Utah in 1973 with a degree in political science, and they began their life together as a law school family at the University of Utah that same year. During their time in law school, their two oldest sons were born. It was a wonderful experience not only academically, but also as a time of growth for the young Hart family.

After law school, Stephen had several job opportunities in Salt Lake City and other areas. Based on the advice of Royce Lee, who later became a good friend and law partner, they chose to accept a position in Idaho Falls with the Bonneville County Prosecutor's Office, which was then a part-time role. Stephen began working there immediately after graduating from law school and continued through 1979.

That experience provided Stephen with the opportunity to begin private practice and, perhaps more importantly, to gain extensive experience in litigation



and trial work, something he has always enjoyed. By the time he left the prosecutor's office, Stephen was serving as Chief Deputy Prosecutor for Bonneville County, responsible for prosecuting major cases and ensuring that all prosecutions in the county were handled properly.

In 1979, Stephen established his own practice. Over the years, he has had the privilege of handling both criminal prosecution and defense, including involvement in more than 15 first-degree murder cases, as well as numerous felony and misdemeanor matters. In recent years, his practice has focused primarily on complex family law litigation, including custody and related issues.

Throughout his career, Stephen has greatly enjoyed working with the outstanding members of the Bar in the Seventh Judicial District and across the State of Idaho, as well as appearing before many excellent judges.

While he has deeply valued his legal career, the most important part of Stephen's life has always been his sweetheart, Kathy. She has been patient, supportive, and by his side throughout this entire journey. Stephen has also enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and many other activities over the years. However, his greatest joy has been traveling and simply spending time with his wife and family.

Stephen and Kathy are blessed with four wonderful sons, 18 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. As the saying goes, it is never work if you enjoy what you do. He can honestly say that he has truly enjoyed practicing law and values the opportunity it has given him to work with people and help them navigate the challenges they face.

Kenneth B. Howard

Kenneth Howard graduated from Wayne State University Law School. He resides in Santa Fe, NM, with his wife, Barbara.

Larry C. Hunter

Larry Hunter practiced with Moffatt, Thomas, Barrett, Rock and Fields from 1976 to 2018 and Hawley Troxell 2018-2020,



Larry Hunter with his wife, Iris.

he was on Sabbatical from 2014-2016 as Associate Area Legal Counsel for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was admitted to practice in state and federal court, and had a general litigation practice including products liability, insurance coverage, agricultural liability, professional malpractice and personal injury, and some administrative law and alternative dispute resolution.

Larry's achievements include being an Idaho State Bar Commissioner; Idaho Delegate and State Bar Delegate to the American Bar Association House of Delegates; member and Chair of the ABA Legal Assistance Committee, and member ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance. He has been involved with numerous Idaho State Bar programs such as grading Bar exams on 30 occasions; Idaho Volunteer Lawyers program, presentations to women's prison, etc. He has been a member and chair of J. Reuben Clark Law Society; served with community in Kiwanis International since 1978; served on the Boise Philharmonic Board of Directors; been a member of the Boise Philharmonic Foundation Board; and been a Public Member of the Idaho State Board of Accountancy for two terms. He has served his church including Bishop, Spanish Branch President, Stake High Council, and a mission to Argentina.

Larry is fluent in Spanish, his hobbies include travel with Iris, reading, golf and family activities. He was raised in Twin Falls, went to his undergraduate at Harvard, then law school at Northwestern. He was a missionary in Chile from 1968-1970; and

worked for Bank of America in its Latin America Division from 1971-1973.

Larry has been married to Iris Hunter for 54 years; they have six children: Risa, Ryan, Janessa, Justin, Amanda, and Andrea, and have 23 grandchildren. His family is involved in music, sports, and academia, with children who among them have six bachelor's degrees, two master's degrees and a law degree.

Charles C. Just

Charles Just graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Idaho Falls.

Patrick J. Kole

Patrick Kole was born in Bay City, Michigan, but grew up in Midland, Michigan. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Denver College of Law where he was an editor of the Denver Journal of International Law and Policy. At the urging of two classmates who had toured several western states looking at where to begin their legal careers, he and his wife, Julia, traveled to Boise, Idaho in May of 1976. His friends took them on the Boise-Stanley-Sun Valley loop, and they moved to Idaho later that month. Patrick thought that his dream of a career in international law was over, and indeed that seemed to be the case.

He worked for Idaho Attorney General, Wayne Kidwell, Ada County Prosecutors, David Leroy and Jim Harris, and in private practice with Gigray, Miller Downen and Weston. Patrick returned to the Attorney General's Office in 1982 and worked with Jim Jones. In 1987, on a Saturday morning in the Attorney General's Office, he noticed seven men coming through the front door and going into Jim Jones's office. Shortly thereafter the phone/intercom rang, and he went into the office as well. There he was introduced to Commissioners of the Idaho Potato Commission (IPC) and directed to handle a personnel matter for them. This engagement began his work for the IPC, first while with the AG's Office, then at Moffatt, Thomas, and then as the in-house Counsel to the IPC.

The IPC had been very successful in creating the Idaho Potato brand. With that success came the challenges of brand protection because other potato growing states and countries began to infringe upon the Idaho® brand. In doing this work, he was asked in 1988 to also protect the Intellectual Property Rights being developed for the State of Idaho Centennial by Governor Andrus. For both “clients” he developed a licensing, auditing, and enforcement program to accomplish this goal.

He ran unsuccessfully for the Idaho Attorney General’s Office in 1990. In hindsight, it was a blessing as it led to his full-time employment with the Idaho Potato Commission. During his career with the IPC, he realized his goal of an International Law practice. He traveled to every continent, except the Arctic and Antarctic, speaking at seminars, attending conferences, meeting with government officials, and testifying in hearings both in the US and elsewhere. He held positions in organizations such as the International Trademark Association, AIPLA, and AIIPIA. He also “went through the chairs” of the Fourth District Bar Association and served on Idaho Supreme Court Committees such as the Committee that developed the Rules of Evidence.

Patrick volunteered for several organizations such as East Boise Little League, Bogus Basin Ski Racing Alliance, Ada County and Idaho Republican Party, and Boise Southwest Rotary, among others. He served as a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church



Patrick Kole with his wife, Julia.

in Boise and now at St. William Catholic Church in Naples, FL. Patrick has joined the Naples Pelican Bay Rotary Club where he serves on the Board of Directors, serves as Chairman of the Pelican Bay Foundation Government Relations Committee, and is a Co-Chair of the Pelican Bay Men’s Coffee Organization.

Patrick and Julia, married for 53 years, moved to Florida in 2021. They have three children and two grandchildren. They return to Idaho at least once each year to stay in touch with friends.

Thomas R. Linville

Thomas Linville graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Boise with his wife, Jacque.

David Richard Lombardi

Born at the naval hospital in Bremerton, Washington, David Lombardi spent much of his childhood at different Navy duty stations on the east and west coasts until his father retired in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Law was not David’s first career ambition. While his older brother always knew he wanted to be a lawyer, David started on a different path. He wanted at first to be a naval architect but got mired in “new math,” realized engineering was not for him, and opted for liberal arts. He graduated from Stanford University in 1971 with a B.A. in English literature and spent much of his senior year and the following year working with a community performing arts education project in Los Angeles. He also attended the School of Education at UCLA where he planned to get a teaching credential and master’s degree. While there, he wrote a play that was performed as part of a jazz concert at the Watts Towers in south central Los Angeles.

He was struck by the importance and power of the law when his lead actor was arrested and jailed for months before the case was dismissed without trial. David returned to northern California the next year, worked for the Dean of Students of the Stanford Medical School, and enrolled at the University of Santa Clara School of Law. He graduated magna cum laude from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1976.

David met his future wife, Judy Rummell, a few months before starting law school in 1973. They married the following year. A visit to a college friend in Boise a year before his 1976 graduation convinced David that Idaho was where he wanted to build his life and raise his family. Their first daughter, Beckie, arrived the same weekend he learned from Willis Sullivan, a well-connected lawyer and senior partner at his new law firm, Langroise, Sullivan and Smylie, that he had passed the Bar. Daughter, Kate, followed in 1979.

David credits John Ward and Walter Bithell—mentors he shared, as it happens, with several other distinguished Idaho lawyers of his era—with shaping the foundations of his practice while he was at Langroise, Sullivan & Smylie. Shortly after the firm merged with Holland & Hart in 1985, David moved to Imhoff & Lynch where he focused on his litigation practice.

David joined Givens Pursley in 1990 at the invitation of Ken Pursley, who became a close friend and mentor. He remained a partner at Givens Pursley for more than 30 years. His litigation practice there ranged widely from medical malpractice and professional liability defense to business and commercial litigation, environmental law, and mining law. His most memorable cases included working with criminal defense lawyer Larry Westberg in the defense of the second federal criminal trial in the country brought under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Syringa Networks case that invalidated unlawful statewide telecommunications contracts issued by the State of Idaho, and a successful challenge to the Payette National Forest Management Plan under the National Environmental Policy Act. Throughout his career, he most enjoyed cases “where the learning curve was steep.”

David was a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, the International Society of Barristers, American Inns of Court No. 130, and the Federal Bar Association before retiring from his litigation practice.

In 2013, after more than 35 years as a litigator and many years mediating as an advocate, David expanded his practice to include service as a mediator. In 2025, he left Givens Pursley and started Lombardi Mediation.

David is pleased that his mediation practice frequently presents the steep learning curve he has always enjoyed and gives him the chance to meet and work with a broad range of lawyers and their clients. He especially enjoys working with younger lawyers he didn't meet during his litigation years while continuing to engage with colleagues he has worked with and against for decades. He remains a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals and the Idaho Mediation Association.

David learned to roll cast salmon eggs with a fly rod when he was a boy but didn't learn to fly fish until attorney, John Croner, introduced him to the sport during his years at Imhoff & Lynch. In the decades since, he has fished the rivers and lakes of Idaho and Montana, ventured to Wyoming, Argentina, New Zealand, Colombia, and other wonderful places.

David joined a small group of fellow fly fishermen in 2013 to found Idaho2Fly, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation with a mission to support men with cancer by bringing them together through the sport of fly fishing. Serving as President from its incorporation through 2021, he managed the group through Covid, expanded services to three retreats per year, and laid the foundation for sustainability and growth into the future.

David and Judy have been married for 52 years. They made their home in Boise where Judy pursued her career as an artist whose works in oil, pastel, and graphite hang on the walls of many homes and offices. Their daughter Beckie lives in Boise; their younger daughter Kate lives in Los Angeles with their son-in-law Sean and granddaughter Arden, who loves to come to Boise.

Rarely one to look back, David looks forward to meeting more new members of the Bar in his mediation practice, to more travel with his wife and family, and to more fishing.

Susan D. Powell Mauk

Susan Mauk was born and raised in Neponsit, New York on Long Island. Prior to law school, she received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Vassar College and a master's in history from Columbia University, followed by four years as a high school history teacher.

She was a member of the founding class at the Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C. (now the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC-DCSL)). There, she met and married her classmate, Bill Mauk, an Idaho native. Following

graduation, they moved to Boise to take the Idaho Bar Exam. As it turned out, only two women were admitted to the Idaho Bar in 1976; making Susan either the 51st or 52nd licensed female attorney since Idaho statehood—depending on who you might ask.

During her legal career, Susan served as a Deputy Attorney General, starting with the Department of Health and Welfare, then as chief counsel for the State Board of Education, and briefly in private practice with a small Boise law firm. Although she enjoyed her years practicing law, she eventually chose to become a different kind of counselor.

In 1985, she obtained a master's in counseling degree from Idaho State University, followed by licenses as a Clinical Professional Counselor and a Marriage and Family Therapist. Thereafter, for almost 40 years, she shared a private therapy practice with a diverse group of psychologists, social workers, and other professional counselors. Compared to practicing law, she summarizes that being a therapist was "better suited to who I am," with lots of sharing, compassion, client success, and personal satisfaction.

Despite her career change, Susan has never ceased being a proud lawyer. She has maintained her ISB license for 50 years—just in case. As a therapist/lawyer, she served as a court appointed mediator and parenting coordinator in family court disputes. For years, while working as a therapist, she also was on the governing boards for the ISB Lawyer Assistance Program, the Coalition of Advocates for the Disabled, and ACLU Idaho. Looking back, Susan describes her blended careers as pleasingly successful, with no regrets except getting old and retiring from the rewards of helping others.

Beyond her professional connections, for many years Susan was also on the boards of the Boise Contemporary Theater, the Idaho Theater for Youth, and the Idaho Women's Charitable Foundation.



David Lombardi with his granddaughter, Arden.

Susan and Bill have two sons who chose healthcare professions: Sam, who manages mental health clinics in Boise and Caldwell, and Jon, who is a registered hospital nurse in Bellingham, Washington. They have three grandchildren, who excel at rugby, football, and volleyball.

Terry R. McDaniel

Terry McDaniel was raised in Fallon, Nevada. Terry graduated from Churchill County High School. He attended the University of Idaho and later earned his Bachelor of Science in Police Science and Administration from Washington State University. Terry returned to Idaho to attend the University of Idaho College of Law, where he received his Juris Doctor in 1976 and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar that same year.

Terry began his legal career in Lewiston, Idaho, practicing from 1976 to 1978. He then served in the Ada County Prosecutor's Office in Boise from 1978 to 1979. In 1979, he entered private practice in Boise, where he became a partner and built a respected career specializing in insurance defense and personal injury law, practicing until 1991.



In 1991, Terry was appointed as a Magistrate Judge for Idaho's Fourth Judicial District, a role he held with distinction for over two decades. Following his retirement from the bench in 2014, he continued to serve as a Senior Magistrate Judge until 2018. Throughout his judicial career, Terry was known for his fairness, professionalism, and steady commitment to the administration of justice.

Terry married Nancy Smith McDaniel in 1973, and together they have built a strong and close-knit family. They are the proud parents of two children, Molly McDaniel Schafer (Robert) and Patrick James McDaniel (Bronwyn), and grandparents to four grandchildren: Dylan and Allie Schafer of Boise, and Samuel and Anna McDaniel of Chicago.

Since retiring, Terry enjoys spending time at the family cabin in McCall, traveling the world, reading, playing golf, and, most importantly, spending time with—and happily spoiling—his grandchildren.

Reflecting on his career and long-standing membership, Terry shares that it has been a distinct honor and pleasure to live and work in Idaho and to be a member of the Idaho State Bar for 50 years.

John S. McGown Jr.

John McGown, Jr. graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in December 1974 and took the Colorado Bar Exam in late February 1975. In May 1975, he canoed the Rockcastle River with a childhood friend in the Daniel Boone National Forest in a remote area of Eastern Kentucky. Things did not go smoothly. They ended up spending the night by the river. They eventually came across a dirt road and were able to catch a ride to Cold Hill, Kentucky. It had a general store and a pay telephone. His friend called his wife and told her they were safe. She had called the Kentucky State Patrol the night before when they didn't show up. The Patrol told her they would not start a search until the next morning, as trying to find someone in the dark and remote area was next to impossible. At the end of John's friend's conversation with his wife, she asked him to put John on the phone. She told him John's parents had called her to say that

they had just received a letter saying John had passed the Bar Exam. He was so tired that he had zero emotion, it was as if she told him the sun rose—it meant nothing to John at that moment!

John McGown's time in Idaho started in June 1979. He had a four-person paddle raft and put in on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River at Dagger Falls. John turned 30 on the Middle Fork and four days later Mary turned 30 on the Main Salmon.

The McGowns returned to Denver after rafting in Idaho, and he obtained an LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Denver. John also worked part-time for the Internal Revenue Service, gaining valuable experience from the inside. Mary and he looked to the future and decided that Denver would be way too big in the future. They spent considerable time researching where they would like to live for the rest of their lives. Boise was their first choice, and John was fortunate that Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley was looking for a tax attorney. That was 1982 and it has been a great match those many years.

John enjoys teaching and has presented well over 150 seminars. He also taught in the Graduate Tax Program at Boise State University and has been both an adjunct



and visiting professor at the University of Idaho College of Law. He has been active in the Idaho State Bar, including serving as Chair of the Tax Section, a member of the Dispute Resolution Section and on the Governing Board of the Legal History Section. John authored the “Tax Thoughts” column for the Advocate for 19 years.

John is especially proud to have received the Distinguished Lawyer Award from the Idaho State Bar in 2014.

Family has always been his top priority. Mary and John were married almost 42 years before her passing in February 2020. Her memory lives on with the Mary Grunewald McGown Pollinator Garden on the Greenbelt close to the Boise River. Daughter, Erin, works for the State Department in Washington, D.C. Daughter, Brenna, formerly worked for the National Park Service in Anchorage, Alaska, and now lives in Munich, Germany. Their son-in-law, Sebastian, recently completed his Ph.D. in plant science from Oregon State University. He now works in Munich, heading a project to help restore endangered native plants.

They have had a cabin in Grandjean, Idaho for almost 25 years. It is in a group of 19 cabins, seven of which completely burned in the 2024 Wapiti Fire. It has been a great place to fulfill his constant urge to hike. In addition, John completed 17 races to Robie Creek and has the t-shirts to prove it. Travel has been a priority over the years. Both daughters and John have been to all seven continents.

Dean J. “Joe” Miller

Joe Miller’s professional career can be divided into three phases, each with its own rewards and challenges.

After graduating from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1976, he returned to his hometown of Caldwell and practiced with his father, Dean E. Miller, and his partner, Gerry Weston. They later combined with Bill Gigray Sr., Don Downen, Bill Gigray III and Scott



Pasley to form the firm of Gigray, Miller, Downen and Weston. Scott Fouser later joined the firm.

In March 1987, Governor Cecil Andrus appointed Joe as a member of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC), where he served until January 1995. Joe was president of the Commission for five of those years.

Following service at the IPUC, the late Charles F. McDevitt and Joe formed the firm of McDevitt & Miller. His wife, Celeste K. Miller, joined the firm following her retirement as an Assistant United States Attorney. Joe retired from active practice in 2019, although he has maintained his bar license as a Senior Member.

During his career, Joe was engaged in Bar activities, including President of the Third District Bar Association, member of the Ethics Committee, and member of the Board of Professional Conduct.

Michael W. Moore

Mike Moore is a third generation Idahoan. He attended the University of Idaho from 1969 to 1973 where he obtained his B.A. in political science and a B.S. in history. He was a member of the University of Idaho Student Senate and a member of several National Honor Societies including Phi Beta Kappa. Mike was also a member of the University of Idaho golf team. He attended the University of Idaho law school from 1973 to 1976. During his last two years of law school Mike was a member of the Idaho Law Review.

Mike began his law practice in Boise with the Imhoff & Lynch law firm. Imhoff & Lynch handled civil litigation including insurance defense cases throughout Idaho. The firm practiced in areas of automobile, product liability, aviation, commercial general liability, construction, workers compensation, and insurance coverage. Mike became a partner in 1984 and continued practicing with the lawyers in this firm through 1994. During these years Mike’s practice broadened into handling the defense of Federal Civil Rights and Idaho State Tort Claim litigation throughout Idaho in both federal and state court.



Michael Moore and his wife, Cathie.

In 1995, Mike and two of his law partners formed a new law firm in Boise known as Moore, Baskin, & Parker, LLP. Over time, the name of the firm changed as lawyers left for a new endeavor, while other lawyers joined the firm. The law firm is currently known as Moore, Elia, Kraft, and Stacey, LLP. The firm continues to handle insurance defense and other civil defense litigation work for local and national businesses, insurance carriers, and Idaho governmental entities.

Mike is admitted to practice law in Idaho state courts, the United States District Court for the District of Idaho, the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Court of Federal Claims. He is a member of Defense Research Institute, the Federal Bar Association, and the Idaho Association of Defense Counsel. In 2021, the Idaho Association of Defense Counsel presented Mike with the Carl Burke Award for Distinguished Service.

Mike has been married to his wife, Cathie, for 38 years. They live in Boise and have two children: a son, Ryan, and a daughter, Katie. They enjoy exploring Idaho, like to travel, and they like attending Major League Baseball spring training in Arizona. They are both avid golfers; Cathie has four holes in one and Mike only has one! Retirement is around the corner, and they plan on doing a lot

more exploring, traveling, baseball, and golf in the immediate future.

Looking to the past, Mike is grateful for the mentorship from Joe Imhoff, Jim Lynch, and Gomer Davis. He is also very grateful for the relationships and friendships with each of his past and present law partners including Tom Baskin, Paige Parker, Mike Elia, Steve Kraft, Craig Stacey, and Brady Hall. He is also grateful for all the work, effort, support, and friendship he has received from all the past and present associates, legal assistants, and staff who have worked with him these past 50 years.

Merrily K. Munther

Merrily Munther was fortunate to go to work for Elam, Burke, Jeppesen, Evans & Boyd when she came out of law school. They taught her that the legal profession, at least at that time, was comprised of gentlemen (and women), and she learned so much about the practice of law from their many firm members. Merrily's previous experience had been working as a legal secretary in San Francisco and Sun Valley.

Merrily practiced law on the civil side in Boise and McCall for 50 years. Over time, she was given the opportunity to serve several law related organizations: President of the Fourth District Bar Association when the Guardian ad Litem program was established; President of the Idaho Law Foundation when the Interest on Lawyer

Trust Account (IOLTA) program was established; President of the National Conference of Bar Foundations when the concept of break-out sessions was developed from the previous annual meetings of old guys who were sure the participants would "get up and leave" if given a chance for a break from the usual boring meeting format.

She also served as President of the Boise Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction and as President of the Capital City Kiwanis Club.

Merrily was blessed to marry Tom Ratchford about 23 years ago and together they have a blended family of eight children, 20 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. After 50 years, she looks forward to more golf, gardening and painting; at none of these pursuits does she have any particular talent.

Michael J. Newell

Michael Newell graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Harrison with his wife, Linda.

Phillip S. Oberrecht

Phillip Oberrecht graduated from Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law. He resides in Eagle with his wife, Vicki.

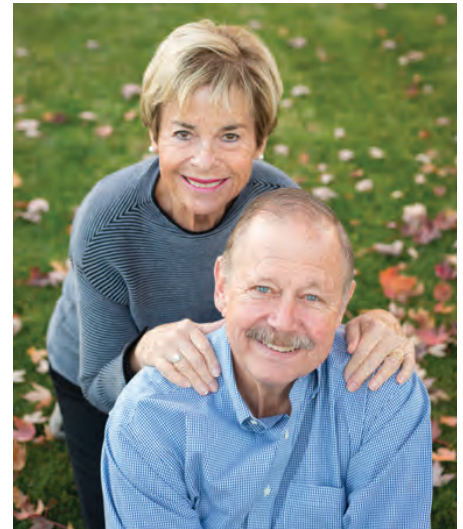
Raymond S. Pasley

Raymond Pasley graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in New Meadows with his wife, Mary.

Paul S. Penland

Paul Penland was born on June 30th, 1949, in Dallas, Texas. His first recollection of a possible career in law dates back to 1960, when watching attorneys in politics. His involvement in politics led to meeting his wife-to-be, Leslie Derr, in the summer of 1966.

After their marriage in 1968, Paul focused on school and family, graduating from Southern Methodist University in 1971. He went to work as a law enforcement officer for the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Paul and Leslie Penland.

A family friend, Morris Harrel, strongly recommended attending Baylor University School of Law, his alma mater. Paul began classes in the summer of 1973, and virtually every class focused on trial aspects of the subject matter. As an academic member of law review, he served as a notes editor.

As law school was ending, Paul went looking for a place like how Colorado Springs used to be and was lucky enough to find Boise. He was offered employment with Moffitt, Thomas, Barrett, and Blanton. His mentors were Richard Fields and Jack Barrett, two incredibly skilled trial attorneys. He focused on civil litigation and workers' compensation defense. His law enforcement background led to being assigned to work on police misconduct civil rights cases.

In 1979, Paul opened his own office and subsequently joined Joseph Parkinson, Donald Lojek, Merrily Munther, Richard Boardman, Tom Munson and others forming several different firms over the years. He has been admitted to the state bars of Texas, Idaho, and Oregon, as well as the bars of the U. S. District Court for the District of Idaho, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and United States Supreme Court.

Paul and his wife, Leslie, retired in 2013, to spend more time together and with their children. They have traveled extensively, visiting five continents and many countries, their favorite being Italy. Returning to school at Boise State



University, he studied the history of art and visual culture, concentrating on art created in Europe between 1400 and 1700. Paul was awarded another Bachelor of Arts degree in 2023. In 2025, Paul started a new career as a ski instructor.

Thanks to all of the attorneys he has worked with or litigated against over the years. Special thanks go to his wife, Leslie, and his children, J.W., Lura, and Christopher. Their love and support made his career as an attorney possible.

Gordon W. Petrie

Gordon Petrie feels like he was just taking a picture with his four-year-old daughter (now a 54-year-old medical doctor) on the steps of the Idaho Supreme Court Building right after his swearing-in ceremony.

After swearing in, for the remainder of 1976, Gordon worked for Nez Perce County Prosecutor, Merlyn Clark, now of Hawley Troxell, as one of his Nez Perce County Deputy Prosecutors. Mr. Clark selected him as his successor, so Gordon was on the ballot in November and won. It wasn't hard since he was the only candidate. Gordon served three terms as the elected Nez Perce County Prosecutor, leaving the elected office

in January 1983. He associated with Jack Curtin and Ted Creason (Ted, of blessed memory) in Lewiston from 1983 to 1985. Gordon joined Lewiston's long-time legal legend, Paul Keeton, and his partner, John Tait (both of blessed memory), from 1986 through 1988.

In December 1987, just before turning forty, Gordon joined the Idaho Army National Guard as a Captain, having been promoted to that rank during the years of potential inactive reserve call-up following his 1973 departure from active duty as a First Lieutenant to attend law school.

In January 1989, Gordon became Gem County's first lawyer magistrate and continued his National Guard career concomitant with his magistrate duties. On his wife's birthday, Gordon was mustered for active duty with the 116th Brigade Combat Team, spending the first six months in such exotic places as Ft. Bliss, Texas (misnamed), and Ft. Polk, Louisiana, training for the mission in Iraq. By then, Gordon had been promoted to Lt. Colonel after a series of command and staff positions.

In Iraq, Gordon served as the Information Operations Officer (S7) for the Brigade and also had overall administrative duties for the Public Affairs Office;

highly unusual, but they made it work well. His primary duties consisted of producing: two television shows per week on Kurdish TV; all the talking points for the Brigade's 5,000 soldiers; and each day, several non-user-friendly PowerPoint-like documents showing how well the Iraqis in Kirkuk had taken to self-government. While in country, he was promoted to full Colonel (06).

Also, while in country, he presided over a summary court-martial on behalf of the Staff Judge Advocate.

Upon returning to the States and release from active duty in November 2005, Gordon resumed his magistrate duties. Thereafter, in July 2006, he was appointed District Judge by then-interim Governor, Jim Risch, chambered in Caldwell.

He retired from the bench in January 2009, doing a one-year sojourn with private education, but the lure of the courtroom sucked him back in for another two-and-a-half years with Ryan Henson and Chad Gulstrom, and by 2012, he retired from law for good. Since then, he served on the Emmett City Council for one year (2014), and he currently is in his third elected term as the Mayor of Emmett.

He and his wife, Pat, celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary in January of this year. They have three children. Their oldest is a medical doctor with a clinic in Emmett and a new clinic in Meridian. Their middle child, though trained as a teacher, now lives in Challis, Idaho, where she helps run the office of an independent power company and serves on the Challis School Board. Their youngest also lives in Challis, where he and his wife are both Physician Assistants and own and operate a health clinic there.

They have eight grandchildren, ranging in ages from 24 to four. The oldest is a full-time firefighter and paramedic in Lewiston, Idaho, Gordon's old hometown.

Danny J. Radakovich

Danny Radakovich was born in Lewiston, Idaho, on April 14, 1950. Danny's paternal grandparents were truck farmers in Lewiston and so his parents moved to Lewiston to live with them until the birth. When Danny was four months old, his parents moved back to Pueblo, Colorado, his father's hometown, where



Gordon Petrie talking to the driver of his HUMVEE as they prepared to convoy to the government building in Kirkuk in the early Fall of 2005 for the day's work there.

Danny grew up. Pueblo is an old town and a tough town, but very diverse and a great place to learn about life. Danny attended college there at Southern Colorado State College, earned degrees in chemistry (BS) and speech (BA), and was a member of the debate team for five years.



To Danny, however, Idaho was always God's country and so he came back to Idaho to attend the University of Idaho College of Law. When he started his first semester, the Law School was still in the old administration building, but it moved to the new College of Law building midway through that semester. Danny graduated with his J.D. in 1976 and passed the Bar exam the same year, although the Idaho Supreme Court made all of them come to Boise to take the exam. When they passed the Bar, Danny and his classmate, William J. Fitzgerald, started a partnership in Lewiston, Idaho, which lasted a couple of years. In that same time period (1978), Danny married Lisa von Bargen. They are married to this day and have three children, Nicholas, Carolyn, and Kathryn. Danny also became a grandfather very recently at age 76.

After the Fitzgerald partnership ended, Danny joined his uncle, Eli Rapaich, in the firm of Rapaich & Knutson, which lasted only a short while. After that, Danny went out solo again and that has continued to this day, with various short-term associates along the way who did not last long. Danny has always had a general practice, with emphasis on criminal law, plaintiff's personal injury, domestic relations, real estate, etc. He had no real landmark cases but was always a very busy practitioner. As he was preparing to retire, Danny hit a couple of nice personal injury settlements which drastically changed his bottom line and made him and Lisa debt free. Danny is trying to retire now but has been helping Joanna McFarland stand up the new public defender system on his way out the door. Retirement looms!

John P. Riceci

John Riceci graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Boise.

Hon. Leland M. Riddoch

Judge Leland Riddoch graduated from Seattle University School of Law. He resides in Idaho Falls.

Jeffery W. Ring

Jeffery Ring graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law. He resides in Lake Oswego, OR.

Brent T. Robinson

Brent Robinson graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Rupert with his wife, Janet.

G. Lance Salladay

A native Idahoan, Lance was born in Twin Falls, Idaho on April 1, 1951. He is the second of six children. After living briefly in Jerome and Pocatello, his family moved to Boise in 1958 where he has resided since.

He graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.S. in business management in 1973 and entered the U of I Law School that fall. His class was the last class to attend classes in the "old" law school in

the basement of the U of I Administration Building and was the first class to attend the new law school following their first semester.

Lance began his law career after his second year as a summer intern at the Ada County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. During his third year of school, he served as a Deputy/Intern City Attorney for the City of Pullman, WA, working with the firm of Aikin, Shauble, Patrick and Neil. Upon graduation he returned to the Ada County P.A. office under David Leroy, where he continued to work until late 1977 when he was asked to join the firm of Risch, Goss & Insinger. In 1979 he became a partner in the firm until 1992 when he elected to leave the firm and open his own solo practice.

Lance's practice was quite general, involving everything from personal injury, business start-up's, family law, and probate, but his greatest achievement was being able, as outside counsel, to defend the interests of Idaho Power Company in numerous lawsuits from injury/death cases to fire and environmental claims for some 35 years.

During his career Lance served on several civic boards, including Hays House (a temporary home for at-risk kids) and Ballet Idaho. Additionally, he served as the chair of the Litigation Section and received an award for Outstanding Service from the Bar in 2013.

Jon M. Steele

Jon Steele graduated from Drake University Law School. He resides in Boise with his wife, Peggy.

Randolph C. Stone

Randolph Stone graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law. He resides in Burley with his wife, Beverly.

Carl C. Straub

Carl Straub is a graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law. Carl lives in Kalispell, Montana.



Lance and his wife, Cyndy, enjoying dinner on a recent cruise.

Jeffrey A. Strother

Jeffrey Strother graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law. He resides in Eagle with his wife, Gail.

Thomas H. Swinehart

Thomas graduated from Santa Clara University School of Law. He resides in Highlands Ranch, CO, with his wife, Trish Elledge.

R. John Taylor

R. John Taylor graduated from Washington and Lee University School of Law. He resides in Lenore with his wife, Debra.

P. Mark Thompson

Mark Thompson was born in Wheeling, West Virginia in 1951. He grew up in the small town of Bridgeport, Ohio on the western banks of the Ohio River. Mark graduated from Ohio University in 1972 with a degree in history. He then enrolled in the Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago.

Upon graduating from law school, Mark accepted a position with the Idaho Attorney General's Office where he was assigned to the criminal appeals division. During this first tenure with the AG, Mark briefed numerous cases and argued before the Idaho Supreme Court over 20 times.

In 1979, Mark became an Associate with the firm of Hawley, Troxell, Ennis and Hawley. He remained with the firm for four years, focusing on civil litigation, bankruptcy and construction law. When fellow Northwestern grad, Jim Jones, was elected Attorney General, Mark returned to the AG's office as chief deputy for civil litigation. His second tour with the AG lasted four years. Mark departed when he was appointed as a magistrate judge for Ada County. As a magistrate, his docket consisted primarily of domestic relations and misdemeanor criminal cases.

After two years as a magistrate, Mark accepted a position as in-house counsel with J.R. Simplot Company, an

agribusiness conglomerate that remains one of the largest and most successful privately held companies in the country. Mark's duties with Simplot were broad ranging, and included transactional work, litigation management, and general commercial law. He retired from Simplot in 2013 after 25 years of service.

The final career stop for Mark came when he became partner emeritus at the Boise firm of Givens Pursley in 2013. He was involved in general business matters and litigation. Following some health issues, Mark conclusively retired from law practice in 2018. His career was a long and twisting road, but Mark enjoyed it immensely.

Like many lawyers, Mark was involved in community affairs and charitable organizations. He served on the boards of Special Olympics, Make-A-Wish Foundation and Community Service Alternatives. He coached youth sports for many years. He also served as Vice-Chairman of the Idaho Commission for Pardons and Parole.

Mark and his wife, Laura, have a blended family with a total of six children and an aggregate of five grandchildren. Mark's personal life has been rich and full of adventures. He has hiked and climbed on six continents. His most prized accomplishments include reaching the summit of Africa's Mt. Kilimanjaro twice; climbing Cerro Aconcagua in Argentina (the world's highest peak outside the Himalayas); completing the 500-mile Camino de Santiago in Spain; and trekking for a month in Nepal.



Mark and his wife, Laura, in Cinque, Italy.

Mark and Laura, together, completed a long trek in Iceland, and walked across Scotland.

Mark is a black belt in the Korean martial art of Tae Kwon Do. He is a licensed open water diver, and has been certified as a Wilderness First Responder. He has completed a dozen marathons and several triathlons.

Mark and Laura became full time residents of McCall in 2022. They still travel extensively. They are both huge fans of the Chicago Cubs. They live happily in the Idaho mountains with three adorable cats.

Alan E. Trimming

Alan started as a Public Defender in 1976 with the contract Ada County Public Defender, Elli Matthews, and then Chuck McDevitt. This carried over to the Ada County staffed Public Defenders Office headed by Klaus Wiebe in 1978. He spent a year in private practice and returned to the public defender office in 1980. He did all the things a Deputy Public Defender is assigned to do as well as many jury trials, most of which were felonies.

Alan became Chief Public Defender in 1984. He saw the office through years of unprecedented growth in case assignments and responsibilities. He started with ten staff attorneys and left with 45. He was blessed to be surrounded by dedicated and talented attorneys and support staff. He held this position until he retired in September of 2016.



Alan Trimming with his wife, Karen, and his son, Michael.

He helped build what he felt was solid, professional, and effective office. Alan always endeavored to always do the best he could. Never apologized for the work he did and treated his clients and people around him with fundamental human dignity and respect.

Alan and his wife, Karen, stick mostly close to home where there is always something to do. They still hope to do some traveling. Together they raised three children, Michael, Sarah, and Tovah. A doctor and two lawyers. They are in California and Tennessee and Alan is enjoying his retirement.

Michael A. Van Horne

Michael Van Horne is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law. Michael and wife, Jelaine, live in San Diego, California.

Herbert Thomas Vanderford

Herbet Vanderford is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law. Hervert and wife, Marcia, live in Eagle, Idaho.

William Remi VanHole

Bill VanHole is a native of Colorado. Upon graduation from Colorado State University in 1970 he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war. Following his service with the Army's Third Armored Division in Germany he moved to Idaho in 1972. He entered the University of Idaho College of Law and graduated in 1976. Bill served as law clerk to U.S. District Judge Fred M. Taylor for two years during which he developed a keen desire for work in the courtroom. Bill entered private practice with the insurance defense firm of Quane Smith Howard & Hull in Boise and worked on cases throughout the state including litigation arising from the 1976 Teton Dam disaster. He joined the Boise firm of Langroise, Sullivan and Smylie in 1981 seeking a more general trial practice until an opening occurred in the U.S. Attorney's office in Boise. In 1983, Bill was appointed an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Idaho and handled a wide variety of both civil and criminal federal

matters throughout the state. In 1984, Bill was honored to be court-appointed as the acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Idaho.

In 1987, Bill left the U.S. Attorney's office to join a new litigation team formed within the Legal Department of Boise Cascade Corporation. The nationwide nature of this litigation practice as an Associate General Counsel with Boise Cascade involved personal injury, employment law, products liability, and insurance cases in numerous state and federal courts across the United States and Canada. Along with this workload, Bill enjoyed many years of involvement with the Idaho State Bar's Litigation Section and the Federal Bar Association. When Boise Cascade Corporation merged with OfficeMax Inc. in 2003, the scope of his practice further expanded to include management of litigation in nearly every state in the union. After 25 years and nearly a million airline miles, Bill retired from OfficeMax in 2012 with many cherished memories of mentors and colleagues in the bar and within the state and federal court systems.

Bill currently enjoys water skiing, traveling, and fly fishing as much as possible. He is most proud of his wife of 55 years, Gemma, and their three children, Dr. Hilary Dunstan of Boise, Dr. Laura Howard of Sacramento, CA., and Nicholas VanHole of Missoula, MT. Six beautiful grandchildren also provide a mountain of joy and inspiration for Bill's retirement years.

Steven C. Verby

Steve Verby graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1972, with a major in psychology, a minor in history, and a teaching certificate. He expected to become a high school teacher and coach, but his path soon changed. In 1973, he entered law school in Moscow, Idaho. During his third year, he met Tamara Love, who became his wife shortly after he was admitted to the Bar.

Steve began his legal career in Boise, where he worked with a great attorney, Jack Gjording, at Elam-Burke. He later

served as a deputy prosecutor in the Boise City Attorney's Office. Drawn by the beauty of North Idaho's mountains, lakes, and forests, Steve and Tamara moved to Coeur d'Alene, where he again worked as a deputy prosecutor. In 1979 they moved to Sandpoint, which became their permanent home.

During his 26 years in practice, Steve built a distinguished career as a trial lawyer, primarily representing plaintiffs. A fiercely driven competitor, he found trial work to be the ultimate test. He tried many cases, winning the vast majority. While he loved winning, he hated losing even more, and that drive fueled his work.

Throughout his career, Steve combined legal excellence with his desire to help humanity. At age 52, when the District Judge position in Sandpoint became vacant, Steve decided he could help more people from the bench than in private practice. He won the election and took office in 2003. As a full-time District Judge, Steve was assigned over 8,500 cases, more than any other District Judge in Idaho during that time period. Of 205 appealed decisions, only 13 were reversed. Six were affirmed in part and reversed in part, and the remaining 186 were affirmed or dismissed. Those numbers reflect both his work ethic and the soundness of his decision-making.

As a Senior Judge, Steve no longer conducts hearings or trials, but his work came full circle. Returning to his early interest in teaching, he trained Idaho judges in how to conduct criminal mediations. Steve also served on several Idaho Supreme Court advisory committees, including the Criminal Rules Advisory Committee, the Evidence Rules Advisory Committee, and the Civil Jury Instruction Advisory Committee. Throughout his career, he was a leader—as president of the Student Bar Association in law school, as the President of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association, the District Judges Association, and the Sandpoint Rotary Club. He was also the first recipient of the "Trial Lawyer of the Year" award.

Steve is also known for his humor and warmth. He loves making people smile and laugh. His quick wit, jokes, and puns have long been part of his personality.





Peter and Anne Wagstaff in 2026.

Peter C. Wagstaff

Peter grew up in a U.S. Army family that moved 14 times during his school years. He found a stable situation in four years at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire. Peter ultimately graduated from Stanford and Cornell Law School.

In considering his employment prospects, he learned from his father, a native of Portland, Oregon, that his grandfather had described Coeur d'Alene as "paradise." Peter agrees! He arrived there in 1975 as a VISTA attorney with Idaho Legal Aid. He completed two years of national service, representing clients in consumer credit and landlord-tenant law. That was followed by 13 years as an attorney in private practice, with an eventual focus in business and real estate law. He litigated in the courthouses of the six northern counties, at government agencies, and in various federal courts.

Peter also held leadership positions in the Kootenai County and First District bars. In 1986, he was elected by the attorneys in the First District to represent them for a three-year term on the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar. He served as president of the Board in 1989.

In 1991, he transitioned to a non-legal financial advisor position with Merrill/Bank of America. He participated in opening the Merrill office in Coeur d'Alene and represented clients for over 20 years. Then, striking out on his own, he managed his own investment advisory company in the LPL Financial network for eight years. Peter continued to attend bar functions during that time. He also volunteered with the Kootenai Health Foundation, Rotary, and his church. In 2022, he retired at the age of 72 after 46 years of service to the North Idaho community.

Peter and his spouse, Anne, have been married for 47 years. They enjoy quality time in retirement with their two sons and daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren. Peter spends his spare time in outdoor recreation, including rowing, running, golf, skiing and backpacking. He values the support provided by Anne and his family during this colorful career.



Thomas and Donna in front of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

Peter has been fortunate to enjoy memorable relationships with clients, bar members and staff. He appreciates the support that the Idaho State Bar delivers as part of its significant public service. With its friendly social connections and scenic landscapes, Idaho is a place that Peter is happy to call home.

Thomas G. Walker

After graduating from Georgetown University in 1967 with a degree in Finance, Thomas Walker spent about six years working in his family's Coors Beer distributorship in Twin Falls. When the plan to buy out his father didn't work out as he had hoped, his father asked what he wanted to do instead. Out of the blue, he thought he'd go to law school. With some help from Tom's folks and his wife, Donna, who supported them and their two young daughters, he earned a J.D. from the University of Idaho in 1975 and L.L.M. in Taxation from the University of Miami in 1977.

Tom has been practicing since April 1976. When he returned to Idaho from Miami, he was one of fewer than ten tax lawyers in the state. While he started as a tax lawyer, he always loved learning new things, so Tom branched into civil litigation. Over the years, he handled everything from civil RICO cases to a memorable 59-day construction defect trial that convinced him to shift back toward what he loved most: representing entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Tom's practice has focused on complex litigation, business succession planning, estate and trust work, and family wealth preservation. He has handled cases before state and federal courts in Idaho and beyond, covering minority shareholder disputes, securities violations, tax controversies, and breach of contract matters.

Now at 80, Tom is still practicing law. Rather than retiring, he has transitioned to what he calls his "Next Phase"—focusing on complex litigation consulting for other attorneys, business law, and wrapping up existing matters while stepping back from routine estate planning work.

Donna and Tom have been married for 58 years. They have two daughters, Curi

and Stephanie, three grandsons (Austin, Tyler, and Tommy), and one granddaughter (Parker). In September of 2024, they completed the Camino de Santiago in Spain, finishing their pilgrimage at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. After 50 years of law practice and countless miles walked together, that journey felt like a fitting celebration.

People often ask if Tom is retired. He always says no, though he's not entirely sure why. After 50 years, he still doesn't know any better. Or maybe he just loves what he does.

Robert A. Wallace

Mostly retired now, Robert Wallace is a Californian by birth and educated at the original Regent's College in San Francisco. He married a Pocatello gal, and they moved to Boise immediately

upon graduation. Robert's private Idaho law practice ended in a small office general, commercial, trial, and criminal defense shop. Before that, Robert has held perhaps 10 public service jobs and appointments. He was committed to pro bono service and even ran for statewide office.

He fully lived Idaho's solid, Intermountain West values, culture, and incomparable outdoor lifestyle. Ten years ago, he wanted more. He moved to New York City for family, reconnecting with them individually and his Judaism. His present family enjoy New York's cultural and international diversity from Manhattan's Upper East Side, the Tri-State area, Israel, their history, and access to travel.

In 2019, the New York City Bar Chorus admitted Robert as a Baritone, and they appeared that year in Carnegie Hall. He was recently "promoted" to Bass II. Related to this, he was blessed with a referral from another singer to Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Harrison where he worked nearly three years. Nobody was and remains more surprised by all of this than Robert himself.



Robert has a 42-year-old daughter who recently moved back to Northern California. In NYC, Robert and his steady girlfriend are making excellent progress successively exceeding the duration of each of their three prior marriages.

Stanley W. Welsh

Stanley Welsh graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He resides in Meridian with his wife, Regina.

Michael B. White

After graduating from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1976, Michael White and his wife moved to Boise to look for employment opportunities. Upon successfully completing the Bar Exam, he was hired as a staff attorney at Idaho Power Company in Boise. He worked for Idaho Power for three and a half years.

While reviewing the October 1979 issue of *The Advocate*, he came upon an advertised attorney position opening with Hecla Mining Company, with corporate headquarters in Wallace, Idaho. He applied and was hired as a staff corporate attorney commencing on Valentine's Day 1980. They moved to Wallace and Michael commenced his career at Hecla that would continue for 45 years.

Hecla moved its corporate headquarters to Coeur d'Alene in 1986. He was appointed as General Counsel in 1986 and as Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary in 1992. As General Counsel, he retained and worked with many outstanding law firms and attorneys throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The areas of practice included labor, mining and contract law to securities, corporate, and environmental law. He managed and provided legal support for many major financing, acquisitions, mergers, and divestitures. Toward the end of his career his legal responsibilities focused on environmental matters including the defense of CERLA (superfund) claims associated with Hecla's historical mining operations throughout the west. He stepped down as Vice President and General Counsel in 2010 and as Corporate Secretary in 2025.

Michael is pleased to have assisted Hecla in successful appeals before the Idaho and Colorado Supreme Courts. He was also able to provide legal support to help settle multiple CERCLA claims relations to Hecla's historical mining operation, including the Bunker Hill and Coeur d'Alene Basin Superfund Sites. He has a proud multiyear involvement with the Idaho Department of Labor Workforce Advisory Council.

As a fourth generation Idahoan boring in Sandpoint and growing up in the small town of Clark Ford, he went to undergrad at the University of Idaho and law school. Michael's father was a strong influence on continuing his education into law school. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Coeur d'Alene and he is fully retired other than a 25-year involvement with an attorney friend involving a Spokane winery named "Barrister Winery." He has a son, Ryan, who is also a graduate of the University of Idaho who is currently working as Chief of Staff for Senator Jim Risch. Michael has a stepdaughter (daughter), Caitlin, who graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and is employed as an in-house corporate attorney in Coeur d'Alene. They have three grandchildren, all living in Idaho.

Everett T. Wohlers

Everett's career path has been characterized by changes in course. He went to the US Military Academy intending to be a career Army officer. After he was commissioned in 1968, he served in a tank battalion in Germany and a cavalry squadron in Vietnam. In 1971, he transferred to Ordnance branch and, after graduating from the Defense Nuclear Agency school, he taught nuclear weapons tech courses to the civilian technicians who maintained the Army's nuclear arsenal.

In 1974, he left the Army and went to the University of Texas Law School, graduating in 1976. He moved to Boise and went to work in the Secretary of State's office as the Deputy Secretary for Commercial Affairs, i.e., managing the corporation, UCC, TM, and notary functions. He worked there until 1998.

In early 1978, he joined the Idaho Army National Guard as a Judge Advocate officer. He served in several positions, including Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) for the 116th Cavalry Brigade and SJA for the State of Idaho. He retired as a colonel at the end of 1998.

When he left the Secretary of State's office in early 1998, Everett joined NIC,

the parent company of Access Idaho, where he served as the director of business development and managed the business analysis function on application development projects in a number of states.

In the summer of 2003, he left NIC and became a consultant, assisting developing countries with building legal frameworks for secured lending and business organization, and with developing the registry technology to support them. He free-lanced for the first four years with the World Bank Group (WBG), the Asian Development Bank and USAID. In late 2007, he developed a long-term relationship with the International Finance Corporation, which is part of the WBG, doing secured lending law and registry development.

When the COVID pandemic shut down international air travel in early 2020, it was time to retire. Over the course of his consulting work from 2003 to 2020, Everett managed reforms or assessments and/or spoke at development conferences in 49 foreign countries, mostly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and East Asia and the Pacific. He had many interesting experiences, the most interesting of which was witnessing Al Qaeda's bombing of the US embassy in Yemen in 2008.

Everett has been retired since 2020. He and his wife, Bev, live in Eagle. They make good use of the trails systems, and they have done a fair amount of international and domestic travel for pleasure in retirement. Everett's daughter and her husband and two adult kids live in the Spokane area, and his son and his wife and high school-age son live in Meridian. Bev's son and his wife live in Tucson, AZ.

Lawrence Wong

Lawrence Wong, Senior Partner of Wong & Jiang LLP, brings over 50 years of real-world experience serving clients in California, and he is the first Cantonese-Chinese admitted to the Idaho State Bar.

He has been admitted to practice law in the State of Idaho since 1976, and in California since June 23, 1978. He received his B.A. in economics from University of California, Berkeley in 1972, and his J.D. from University of California, College of the Law, San Francisco, 1975.



Everett, Bev and the Sphinx.



Lawrence Wong and his team.

He is experienced in presenting cases persuasively and engaging effectively with judges, juries, and opposing counsel. He pivots quickly in response to new information or changes in the courtroom dynamic.

Every one of his attorneys are knowledgeable in developing tailored strategies that align with clients' goals while considering the specifics of the case, potential risks, and the opposing party's tactics. All of his attorneys have strong analytical skills and the ability to navigate complex legal matters effectively in English and in Mandarin Chinese.

He credits his Idaho lawyer colleagues John Gannon (Boise), John Radin (Idaho Falls) deceased, for their friendship and support in Idaho. Special tribute is given to John Denman (Idaho Falls) deceased, for giving him the opportunity to join Denman, Reeves, and Ohman in 1976.

Special tribute is also given to the charismatic Reginald Reeves (Idaho Falls) deceased, who mentored him throughout his tenure at his law firm. Of all the lawyers he has come across in his career, Reginald was the most impressive, a lawyer of great dignity, honor, and integrity.

Lawrence's wife, Marien, and his son, Matt, are doing well. He has resided in Atherton and Alamo, California for the

past 46 years. He will always treasure the beautiful memories of Idaho Falls, Pocatello, Boise, and the Idaho Panhandle.

Hon. R. Barry Wood

Judge Barry Wood graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. He first started practicing law in 1976 including a short stint as the elected Prosecuting Attorney of Owyhee County. Starting in 1987, he is a state court judge, including being a senior district judge following retirement in 2010. He served as both a Magistrate Judge and a District Judge. Judge Wood served as Administrative District Judge for more than 10 years and served as the SRBA District Judge for two years.

He enjoys his family and their time together. He also spends a lot of time in the great outdoors.

Scott D. Woodbury

Scott Woodbury was born in New Hampshire, raised in Illinois and received his undergraduate and law degrees from Creighton University. Upon graduation Scott moved to Idaho. His professional experience consisted of

work as a public defender in Ada County (1976-78), private practice in Pocatello (1978-80), and Idaho City (1980), as assistant city attorney and chief criminal deputy for the City of Boise (1981-85), and as a deputy attorney general for the State of Idaho assigned to the Public Utilities Commission (1985-2011).

Scott has had the good fortune of observing, associating with, and learning the craft of law from attorneys, judges, and commissioners and has enjoyed the benefits of working with other seasoned professionals (accountants, engineers, economists) and legal staff.

To the gatekeepers who opened the doors and to the lantern bearers who lit the way, Scott expresses great gratitude. Through them he learned the importance of maintaining moral integrity and the importance of serving the common good and acting justly and ethically.

Finally, and perhaps of most significance, Scott has had the good fortune of his marriage of 42 years to Michele Tae. She is a life partner with whom he shares love, trust, and respect and one to whom he confidently turns to for advice and perspective.



Scott and Michele Tae in Santa Fe.

Congratulations!

To all the honorees at the 2026 Idaho State Bar Annual Meeting, including our outstanding Idaho Law alumni winners:

- Reed Larsen '85
- Hon. Paige M. Nolta '10
- Jessica Perez '20
- Lisa S. Fabreguette '11
- Hon. James F. Combo '83
- Julie S. Kane '89
- Tyler S. Rounds '08
- William L. M. Nary '85
- Hon. Jennifer L.R. Haemmerle '89
- Richard A. Diehl, Jr. '94



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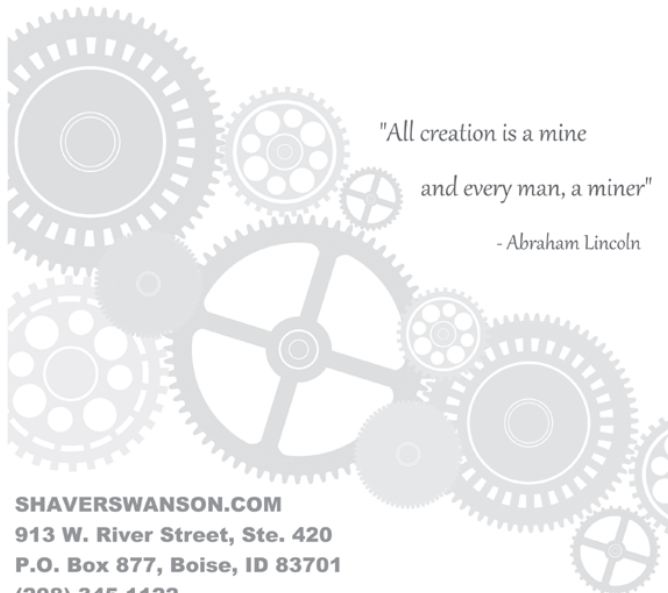
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Additional Awards

Section of the Year Award



The Professionalism and Ethics Section has been a small but mighty section that has helped to foster the professionalism and civility that

Idaho State Bar members enjoy.

For over 20 years the Section has sponsored and been the sole financier of the University of Idaho College of Law Professionalism Day event on both the Moscow and Boise campuses. This event takes place on the first day of law school for incoming first-year students. During the event, members of the Bar and judges meet with groups of students to discuss ethical scenarios that attorneys may face in their careers. This conversation takes place over lunch, as breaking bread together is seen as a way to foster civility. This event is highly regarded by the law school, the students, and the attorneys and judges who take part in the program.

Additionally, the Section has sponsored “Ethical Happy Hour” for many years. These events are open to all members of the Bar to facilitate connections, help members get to know one another, and obtain CLE credits in a fun, game-style format.

Lastly, the Section led discussions on professionalism and civility related to proposed IRPC Rule 8.4(g). Although the rule was not amended, the conversations and discussions were beneficial and advanced civility amongst the membership.

Workers' Compensation Professionalism Award

James Arnold is a partner at Peterson, Parker & Arnold in Twin Falls and the recipient of the 2026 Idaho State Bar Workers' Compensation Section Professionalism Award. This prestigious honor reflects the deep respect he has earned from colleagues, opposing counsel, and judges alike for his ethical practice, legal acumen, and unwavering commitment to justice in the workers' compensation arena.

His dedication to workers' advocacy is rooted in his early experience working



on his family's farm, where he gained firsthand knowledge of demanding agricultural labor. This experience fostered a lifelong respect for the agricultural workforce, particularly the migrant laborers who sustain the industry.

Driven by this commitment, Mr. Arnold dedicated years to challenging a 2011 Idaho Industrial Commission ruling that denied permanent disability benefits to undocumented workers. In a landmark victory following seven years of litigation, he successfully argued the case before the Idaho Supreme Court, securing full workers' compensation and permanent disability benefits for all undocumented workers in Idaho. While Mr. Arnold has argued multiple cases before the state's highest court, this historic ruling remains his most rewarding professional achievement due to its profound impact on an underserved community.

Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section Professionalism Award

Randall A. Peterman was the 2026 recipient of the Professionalism Award presented by the Commercial Law and



Bankruptcy Section. He is a veteran Idaho attorney specializing in bankruptcy, loan workouts, commercial litigation, and agricultural lending. He possesses extensive experience representing banks, leasing companies, and commercial lenders in complex credit transactions.

Mr. Peterman is one of only four Idaho attorneys named a fellow in the American College of Bankruptcy and is consistently recognized by Chambers

USA, Super Lawyers, and Best Lawyers. In addition to his legal practice, he serves as outside general counsel and an MBA adjunct professor for Northwest Nazarene University. He graduated summa cum laude from Northwest Nazarene University and earned his J.D. from the University of Washington Law School. He is a member and past chair of both the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, as well as the Business and Corporate Law Section.

Retired Judges

Hon. Dane Watkins – 7th District: Attended Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on April 29, 1999.

Hon. David Gratton – Court of Appeals: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on September 27, 1985.

Hon. James Barrett – 7th District: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on April 26, 2001.

Hon. Molly Huskey – Court of Appeals: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on September 23, 1993.

Hon. James Combo – 1st District: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on September 21, 1979.

Hon. Theresa Gardunia – 4th District: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on September 26, 1996.

Hon. Barbara Duggan- 1st District: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on September 19, 1991.

Hon. Robert Jackson – 3rd District: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on April 29, 1983. Retirement date: 9/1/2026.

Hon. G Richard Bevan – Idaho Supreme Court: Attended Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar September 24, 1987. Retirement date: 10/30/2026.

Hon. Bernard McHugh – 1st District: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on November 21, 1985. Retirement date: 1/3/2027.

Hon. Lynn Norton – 4th District: Attended University of Alabama and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on April 26, 2001. Retirement date: 1/3/2027.

Hon. Patrick Miller – 4th: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on September 28, 1984. Retirement date: 1/19/2027.

Hon. Scott Hansen – 7th District: Attended Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on April 16, 1987. Retirement date: 1/10/2027.

Hon. Justin Julian – 1st District: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to Idaho State Bar on April 18, 1991. Retirement date: 1/10/2027.

Hon. Deborah Orr – 3rd District: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on March 31, 1988. Retirement date: 1/10/2027.

Hon. Jeff Payne - 2nd District: Attended University of Montana School of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on April 13, 1989. Retirement date: 1/10/2027.

Hon. Casey Robinson – 5th District: Attended University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on September 22, 1988. Retirement date: 1/10/2027.

Hon. Thomas Kershaw - 5th District: Attended Brigham Young University, J. Reuben Clark Law School and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar on September 27, 1985. Retirement date: 1/10/2027.

2026 Idaho State Bar Annual Meeting Recap

The 2026 Idaho State Bar Annual Meeting was held on June 17 at Jack's Urban Meeting Place (JUMP) in Boise.

The day began with two CLE presentations. The first, Bar Counsel Panel: Decades of Ethics, featured current and former bar counsel Joseph N. Pirtle, Brad G. Andrews, and Hon. Michael J. Oths. The second CLE, AI and Its Use in the Legal Profession, was presented by David M. Fogg and Trapper S. Stewart.

At the noon luncheon, the Idaho Law Foundation (ILF) held its Annual Meeting, led by ILF President, Kimberlee S. Bratcher of Boise, with more than 120 members and guests in attendance. During the meeting, Paul L. Clark of Moscow was elected to another three-year term on the ILF Board of Directors. President Bratcher also highlighted the \$900,415 awarded through 2026 IOLTA grants and emphasized the importance of maintaining IOLTA accounts at institutions that maximize interest income to support annual grant funding.

Following the luncheon, Idaho State Bar President Hon. Robert Jackson presented the 2026 Service Awards. Honorees included Boyd "Mack" Mayo of Spokane, Hon. Paige M. Nolte of Nezperce, Jessica Perez of Fruitland, Lisa S. Fabreguette and Kurt D. Holzer of Boise, and Tammie D. Whyte of Idaho Falls. The Professionalism and Ethics Section was also recognized as Section of the Year, with Robert Aldridge accepting the award on the section's behalf.

The afternoon featured two additional CLE programs: NextGen Bar Exam: What Attorneys Need to Know, presented by Hon. Robyn M. Brody, Maureen Ryan Braley, Carole I. Wesenberg, and Lane V. Erickson; and Ligertown: The Escape and the Legal

Saga That Followed, presented by John J. Bulger and Richard A. Diehl.

Evening events began with the Milestone Reception honoring attorneys celebrating 70, 60, 50, 40, and 25 years of bar membership. Retired Chief Justice Robert E. Bakes, marking 70 years of membership, was the longest-serving member in attendance. Also recognized were 60-year members Jack S. Gjording and John Simko, and 50-year members Ryan P. Armbruster, Patrick J. Kole, Paul S. Penland, Danny J. Radakovich, Peter C. Wagstaff, and Everett T. Wohlers. Milestone honorees received commemorative pins and plaques, and several shared reflections on their legal careers.

The Distinguished Lawyer and Outstanding Young Lawyer Awards ceremony followed, with President Jackson and Immediate Past President Kristen Bjorkman serving as emcees before nearly 150 guests. Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice G. Richard Bevan delivered opening remarks.

The 2026 Distinguished Lawyer Awards were presented to William H. Wellman of Nampa and Reed W. Larsen of Pocatello. Kate Wheeler Peterson of Idaho Falls received the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. Each recipient was introduced through a short video tribute and accepted their award with remarks from the podium.

The event concluded with President Jackson passing the gavel to incoming President Frederick J. "FJ" Hahn, III, who will serve as Bar President through July 2027.

The Idaho State Bar also recognized the sponsors whose support made the

Annual Meeting possible, including platinum sponsors, Fennemore, the University of Idaho College of Law, ALPS, and the Fourth District Bar Association, as well as silver sponsors River's Edge Mediation and Clio.



From Left to Right: Distinguished Lawyer William H. Wellman, Outstanding Young Lawyer Kate Wheeler Peterson, and Distinguished Lawyer Reed W. Larsen.



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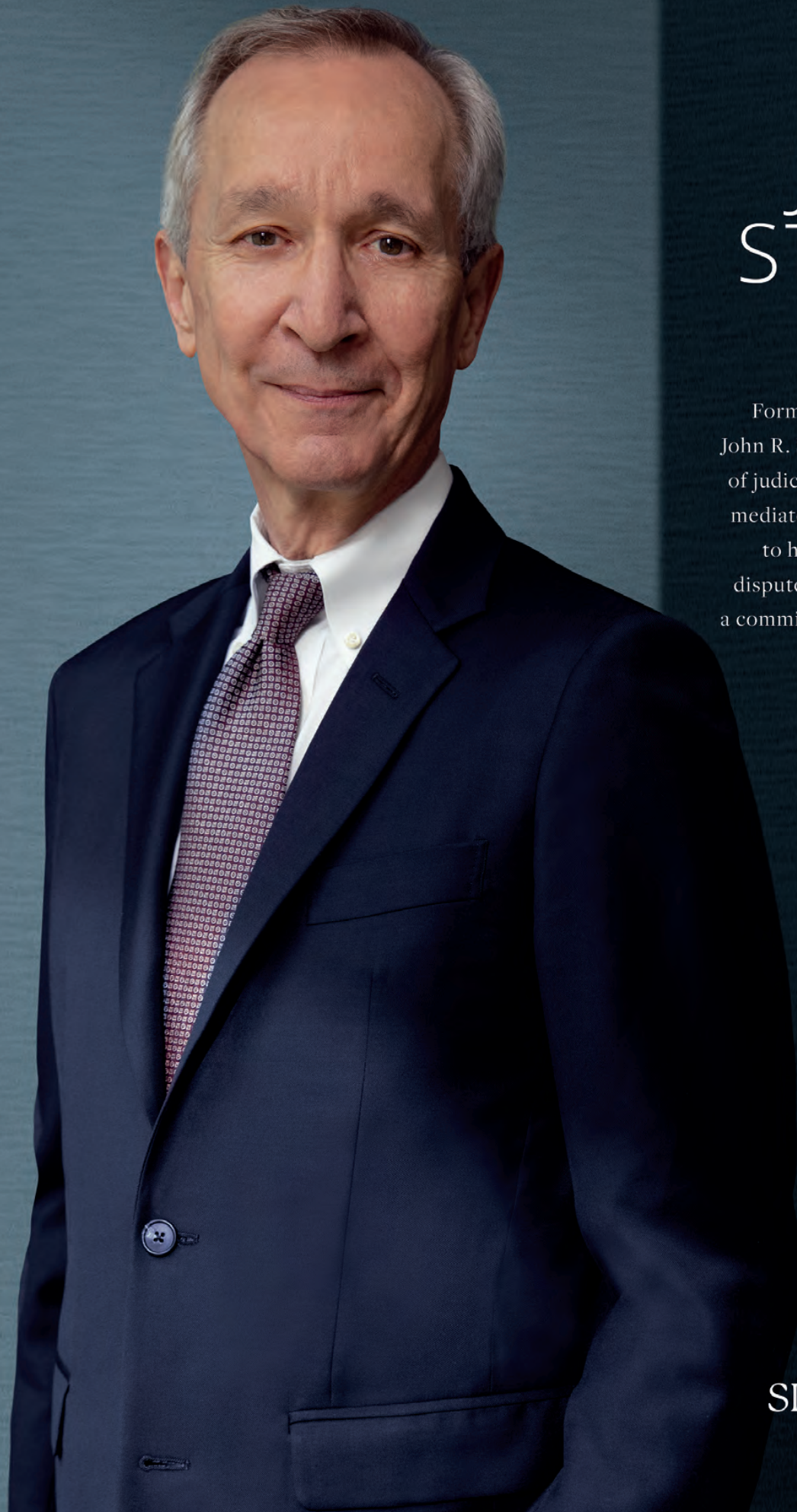
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A professional portrait of an older man with grey hair, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is standing against a dark blue background.

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