

**COLLEGE OF LAW** 

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October 13, 2020

Idaho State Bar Business & Corporate Law Section 525 W. Jefferson Street Boise, Idaho 83702 Attention: F.M. Cody Duane Earl, Chair

RE: Funding Request for the University of Idaho College of Law Entrepreneurship Law Clinic

Dear Chair Earl and Members of the Governing Council,

The Idaho State Bar Business and Corporate Law Section has been a longtime supporter of the University of Idaho College of Law through its annual research and writing competition. As you know, this competition recognizes and awards students that have demonstrated significant research in business and corporate law. The legal profession in Idaho and around the region is enriched and improved because of the section's commitment to acknowledging student research and writing in this area. On behalf of the faculty, students, and staff at the University of Idaho College of Law, I thank you for your generosity and past support.

I am writing to ask that you consider supporting the College in another area where we strive to deliver excellence in legal education in the area of business and corporate law. As a result of reduced public funding support for higher education and overall University budget restrictions, the financial security of our legal aid clinics has been threatened, including our Entrepreneurship Law Clinic. It is for this reason that I ask that the Business & Corporate Law Section consider a gift to the College in the amount of \$10,000 in support of our Entrepreneurship Law Clinic.

The Entrepreneurship Law Clinic, located in Boise, provides free legal services to entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout the State of Idaho. The Entrepreneurship Law Clinic gives participating students practical experience to prepare them for the practice of law in a corporate or transactional setting. Students write engagement letters, form business and non-profit organizations, deal with trademark and other intellectual property issues, draft and review contracts, as well as discuss concerns faced by startup organizations such as income and payroll taxes, human resources, and finance. Additionally, the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic collaborates with other community institutions, including the U. S. Small Business Administration and the Idaho Small Business Development Center.

Many of the clients served by the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic need business legal counseling but are not yet prepared to hire legal counsel. Representative clients of the clinic have included small, non-profit organizations and for-profit startups. Virtually all the

clinic's clients are economically challenged at the startup phase of their project. If their business or project is economically successful, clients of the clinic will usually seek other legal counsel for ongoing representation. The clinic and its students thus strive to be good ambassadors for the legal profession, setting a positive tone for future representation.

Your gift would allow us to continue to offer the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic and work toward expanding our efforts. For example, in the coming months, the clinic is hoping to expand the simulated law firm experience of the students by acquiring law practice related software. Enclosed is more information about the clinic and the invaluable services our students provide.

Again, thank you to you and the Governing Council of the Business & Corporate Law Section for considering this very generous support. Please let me know if you have any questions about the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic or the College of Law.

Sincerely

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Dean and Professor of Law