

the ADVOCATE

August 2025

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HONORING OUR
2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS



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On the Cover



This issue's cover photo was taken by Boise attorney Christian Nafzger. Just as what happens upstream ripples through the waters below, the award recipients honored in this issue have made waves in their professional and personal lives. We invite you to join us in celebrating their accomplishments!

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Congratulations to Our 2025 Award Recipients!

Lindsey M. Welfley

Thank you for picking up the August Special Awards Edition of *The Advocate*, recognizing and honoring the 2025 Idaho State Bar and Idaho Law Foundation award recipients. This is always a member favorite, and we are excited to share the stories of this year's recipients with you!

First, our Distinguished Lawyer and Jurist Awards are presented each year to attorneys and members of the judiciary who have exhibited exemplary conduct, professionalism, and many years of dedicated service to the legal profession and the citizens of Idaho. This year's recipients are the Honorable Cynthia Meyer, Tim Gresback, and Charles "Chuck" Homer.

The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recognizes a young lawyer who has provided service to the profession, the Idaho State Bar, the Idaho Law Foundation, Inc., and to the community, and who exhibits professional excellence. This year's recipient is Alexandra Hodson.

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

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

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

Finally, we honor the Milestone Attorneys who were admitted to the Idaho State Bar 50, 60, and 65 years ago. Their stories are fun and inspiring!

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

Best,



Lindsey M. Welfley
Communications Director

Idaho State Bar & Idaho Law Foundation, Inc.
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Bar Actions

Idaho Supreme Court Orders Granting Petitions for Reinstatement to the Practice of Law

As of the date(s) indicated, the following attorneys' licenses were reinstated:

Holdsworth, Jeffrey David; Active Status,
June 2, 2025

Penney, Katelyn Rae; Active Status,
June 10, 2025

Loren, James Mark; Active Status,
June 30, 2025

Prince, Jason Emerson; Inactive Status,
June 30, 2025

Goldberg, George Zachary; Active Status,
July 22, 2025

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2025 Service Award
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A Career Full of “Next Chapters” *Distinguished Jurist, Hon. Cynthia K.C. Meyer*

Lindsey M. Welfley

Introduction

This year’s Distinguished Jurist, Idaho Supreme Court Justice Cynthia Meyer, comes from a unique background, spanning everything from private practice to small business ownership, teaching and eventually serving on the bench both as a district judge in the First Judicial District and then on Idaho’s highest Court. In speaking with her about the adventures of her life thus far, her humility is inspiring and her passion for her work is evident.

Career Path

Justice Meyer was born in Mountain Home and spent her early life there. Both sets of her grandparents were from the area, as well as a long line of aunts, uncles,

and other distant relatives. She moved with her family to Jerome and attended a country school in first and second grade. From there, her family moved to Pocatello where she attended local schools and graduated from Pocatello High School. Justice Meyer remembers her aspirations for her future career changing with the tide of her favorite classes at the time. During her senior year of high school, she fell in love with her government class. “That was the one that really spoke to me.” Her teacher instilled in her great respect for the people who turned the gears of our system of government, most of whom are attorneys, and Justice Meyer decided this was the path she wanted to follow.

After graduating high school, she set out on this path by attending the College of Idaho and receiving her undergraduate degree in political science. After taking

a two-year break from school, she moved down to Utah to attend the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law. During her third year of law school, she was encouraged to take up litigation upon graduation. This is precisely what she did, combining her skill in the courtroom setting with her knowledge base in real property, contracts, bankruptcy creditor issues, and insurance defense.

Justice Meyer graduated with her juris doctorate and recalls economic times being tough as she made her way into the workforce. Finding jobs then was no easy feat, but she was fortunate to begin her career at the firm Sessions & Moore. During her first year in practice, she met her husband, Rick, and they eventually married and began a family. In the meantime, she moved on to a boutique litigation firm, Campbell Maack & Sessions, where

she practiced for four years. Her next career move took her to the insurance defense firm originally called Morgan & Hansen, then Morgan, Meyer & Rice. “This was where I got wings and really flew. It was fun, good work.” She spent close to 10 years with this firm before making another big professional shift.

In the early 2000s, Justice Meyer felt a tug to make her way back home. During a vacation in McCall one summer, she remembers sitting around the campfire with her husband thinking, “Wouldn’t it be fun living somewhere like this?” She recalls, “We left there with these dreams of ‘maybe it’s time for a change.’” After a business deal fell through for the purchase of a rental company in McCall, Justice Meyer and Rick turned their attention to Coeur d’Alene and decided to move their family to North Idaho in 2003. She was admitted to practice in Idaho right away but chose to take a break from active practice. Instead, she and Rick focused on their family boat rental business. The Meyer family spent eight summers providing the area with an outlet for summer fun. “We were able

to employ local high school and college kids and keep our own kids close. It was so much fun, and the business did well. We have some great memories.”

Justice Meyer spent the off-season teaching paralegal classes and business law as an adjunct instructor at North Idaho College and these off-season months were when she began to miss her legal practice. “It was good for me because I had always wanted to teach, and it was an opportunity for me to finally get to do that.” When she decided to get back into the swing of things, Justice Meyer joined the firm of James, Vernon & Weeks, still in North Idaho. She practiced “a combination of everything [she’d] done before but bankruptcy.”

In 2013, Justice Meyer applied to be a district judge after the retirement of Judge John Luster. This initial attempt did not come to fruition, but she tried again in 2015 after the retirement of Judge Ben Simpson. This time she received the appointment and served as a district judge from 2015 until the end of 2023, when she was appointed to the Idaho Supreme Court.

Notable Career Moments

Throughout her time in practice and on the bench, Justice Meyer highlights a few specific cases she finds particularly memorable. She remembers the first jury trial she ever tried on her own. “At the time I had about a half hour commute, and I’d practice my closing argument in the car out loud every day.” It was an unexpected victory and one she remembers as a great lesson in allowing the jury to do its job.

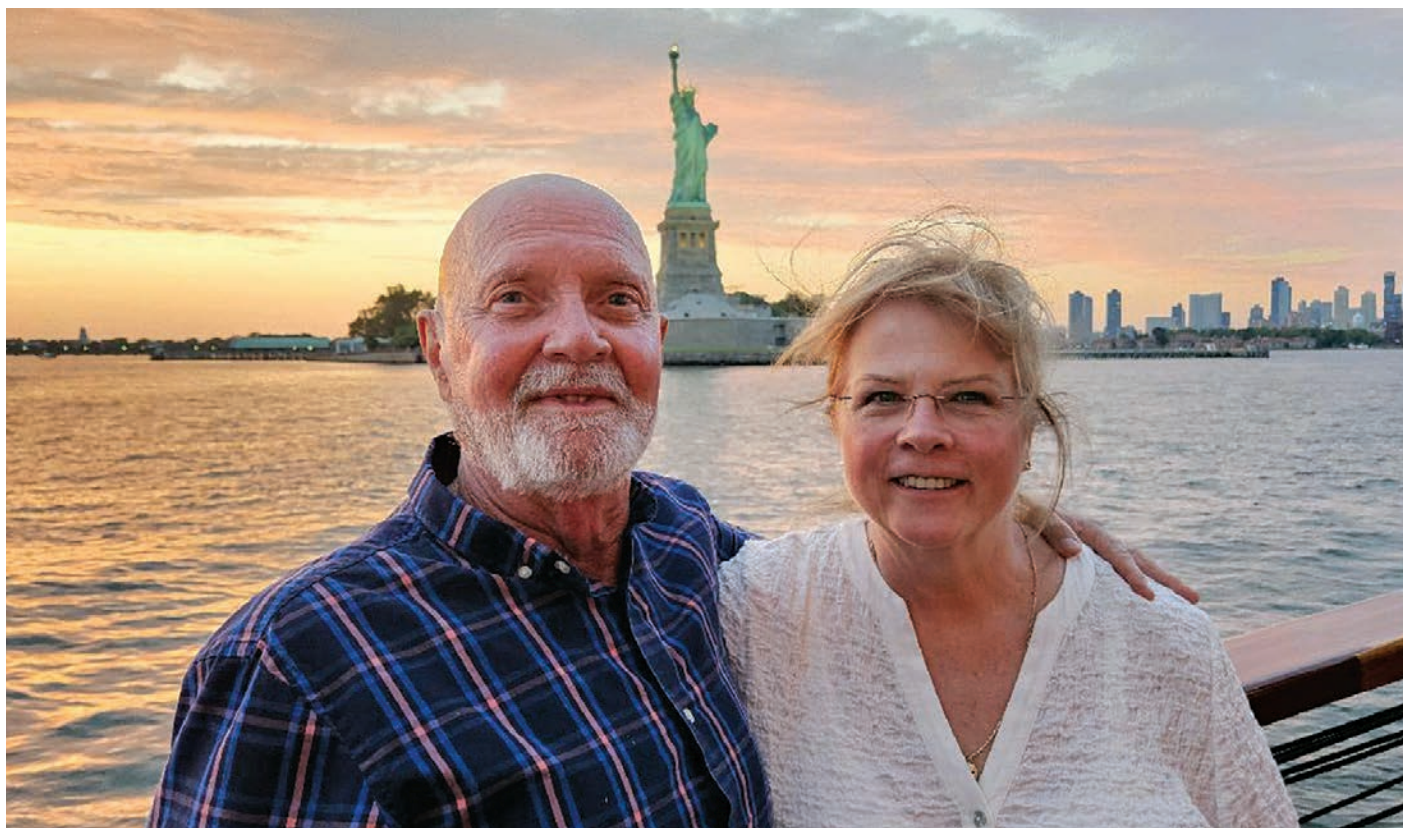
More recently, during the controversy surrounding the matter of North Idaho College and the trustees, Justice Meyer recalls her pride in how the matter was handled. “It was very important to the public. [...] Legally it was very technical and highly contested.” Despite the case being controversial, with different groups fairly entrenched in their positions, Justice Meyer felt it was both humbling and an honor to serve her community in this way.

Role Models

When reflecting on the people in her life who have spurred her along and provided lasting encouragement, Justice



A blast from the past—heading out to golf with sister, Brenda, brother-in-law J, and husband, Rick, in 1992. All photos provided by Hon. Cynthia Meyer.



On a sunset Hudson River cruise with husband, Rick, while in New York for New Appellate Judges Seminar at NYU School of Law in July 2024.



Daughter, Erica, and son, Matt, at Justice Meyer's Supreme Court investiture.

Meyer cites a variety of both personal and professional influences. “My mother and stepfather [John and Dawn Hatch] were tremendous role models for hard work and achievement.” She also recognizes her friend

Susan Weeks, at James Vernon & Weeks, as both a role model and a great partner.

Earlier in her career, several in her law school class looked to Justice Sandra Day O’Conner in her new role on the United States Supreme Court. “All of us saw her as such a beacon.” Another early mentor was Clark Sessions, a well-known Utah trial attorney. “He really was the best mentor that I could have had. He was a great trial attorney, very well respected, and I just learned so much.”

Justice Meyer lives in Boise with her family and has recently found a love for painting. She took up this hobby several years ago with her daughter and likes to reflect on the many life-lessons painting can teach. Everything from patience to the willingness to see things through—both qualities she brings her to her role as a jurist.

During her nearly 20 years in Utah, Justice Meyer recounts that she missed Idaho and was sad about the possibility that she might never practice law in her home state. Since returning to Idaho, resuming the practice of law, and especially during

her tenure as a district judge and now as a justice, she has come to know many attorneys in Idaho. “This is a great bar. I am continually impressed with the quality of lawyers in this state in large towns and more rural areas.” She is thankful for the opportunity to have worked with so many talented attorneys and jurists in Idaho. She is especially thankful to be working with the other justices on the Court as well as with the Supreme Court staff and the Administrative Office of the Courts (“AOC”). “If others think it might be daunting to work with such intelligent, driven people, they would be right,” she laughs, but is quick to point out how down-to-earth, kind, and personable her colleagues are.

Justice Meyer would like to thank her immediate and extended family for their enthusiasm and support for her in her current role. “Without their love and support, this job would be much more difficult.” She continues, “But with my family’s support, I get to enjoy my job every day, working with great people to make a difference in this state upholding the rule of law.”



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Honest, Kind Lawyers Can, Should, and Do Finish First

Distinguished Lawyer, Tim Gresback

Written by Tim Gresback with Editorial
Notes by Lindsey M. Welfley

Background

I was born into a family of 12 children near Saint Paul, Minnesota. My dad was a carpenter, and my mother was a nurse. We loved our hockey. With such a large family to support, my parents could not help me with my education. My father—raised as a hardscrabble tenant farmer in northern Minnesota—had limited educational opportunities but instilled in me the belief that education was the linchpin to success.

Inspired by my dad, I earned a bachelor's degree in history at St. Olaf College, which included a year abroad in England. I then graduated from the public-interest Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C. in 1987.

I wanted to study law because when I was growing up lawyers were extremely well-respected members of the community. I learned that most of the Founding Fathers were lawyers. The law was a good fit for me; I can't imagine doing anything else. I realized lawyers can be a great source of positive social change.

I moved to Idaho in 1987 and clerked for Idaho Supreme Court Justice Stephen Bistline. I then moved to Coeur d'Alene, where I worked in the public defender's office for a few years before starting my own practice. In 1999, while interviewing for a job at the University of Idaho, my wife Sarah went into labor; our son, Luke, was born at Gritman Hospital that day, before we even lived in Moscow. Sarah got the job as an assistant professor of French and we settled in Moscow which, since then, has been our home.

My most rewarding community project was to help get a full-sized non-profit ice rink built in Moscow. I love to golf, play blues harmonica, and fish for trout in Idaho's great rivers. I like to hunt with my dogs, but I don't enjoy shooting birds so much anymore.

Folks tell me I have a great deal of energy. I don't wake up and say, "I'm going to be passionate today." The energy just comes naturally. As an advocate, my passion has served me well. However, as I have learned the hard way—with scars to prove it—that passion can easily cloud one's judgment.

Career Accomplishments

I have tried about 75 jury trials, mostly small cases, but some first-degree murder trials and large civil verdicts. One time I

sued a prominent lawyer. It was not fun but needed to be done. Sometimes lawyers have an obligation to go against the grain.

When I defended citizens charged with crimes, I earned an acquittal for a schoolteacher accused of molesting four teenage girls, arguing that there was no such thing as “felony hugging.” I also defended a client

charged with first degree murder who shot his neighbor through the chest with a .44 Magnum. Our claim of self-defense prevailed. On the civil front, I earned a verdict in a crash case in excess of the cap on non-economic damages, even though my client had severe preexisting spinal degeneration and fell off his roof after his crash.



Tim with his wife, Sarah. Photo provided by Tim Gresback.



Tim and his son, Luke, backstage at a Mariners game in 2011. Photo credit: Unknown

Role Models

My professional role models include Professor Louis Yankowski, Justice Stephen Bistline, Judge Julia Cooper Mack, David Nevin, Ken Pedersen, Karen Koehler, Mike Verbillis, Chuck Kovic, Walt Bithell, Scott McKay, John Rumel, Kevin Coluccio, Judge John Patrick Luster, David Comstock, and Justice John Stegner. My personal role model is Tony Anegon.

Career Impact

So far, I've managed to survive the guilt, which comes in waves, from making a handsome living through clients that have suffered greatly—or even lost members of their family—because of the reckless conduct of others.

I'm extremely concerned about the future of the rule of law. I urge my colleagues to cherish and protect it. We also must defend independent and impartial judges, even when they rule against us. Finally, we must teach the next generation of lawyers how to try cases. Mediation skills are great, but they are hollow without trial skills. Some cases need to be tried.

I'm most proud of seeing the good in people and have not become cynical. I have written and lectured extensively on legal ethics and how to deal with bullies. I hope I have set an example showing that one can be a fierce *and* civil advocate at the same time. Honest, kind lawyers can, should, and do finish first.

Thank you to my wife, Sarah, for believing in me.

Editorial Notes

Tim Gresback has been in practice for 38 years and notes that the time “just flew by!” Throughout the course of his career, Tim has embodied a level of enthusiastic advocacy rivaled by few. He attributes some of his energy to his childhood commitment to escape indigence. From Tim's perspective, living in a constant struggle for survival didn't allow much room for anxiety or depression. He notes, “We often do better emotionally when we have a difficult challenge. I think young people did a lot better before

this affluent digital age.” As he’s reflected on his career, one of his regrets is not recognizing earlier that he had some talent. Had he done so, Tim thinks he would have relaxed more. Also, Tim regrets not realizing earlier that many of his adversaries would become lifelong friends.

Tim has worked on reducing bullying in the legal profession. Throughout his tenure as president of the Idaho State Bar, he dedicated his monthly columns in *The Advocate* to raising awareness of this very real threat to Idaho justice.

Tim served as president of the Idaho State Bar, the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association (“ITLA”), and the Idaho Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He has been certified as a Civil and Criminal Trial Specialist and as a Death Penalty Counsel. Tim was honored as the Trial Lawyer of the Year by ITLA in 2012 and received the Idaho State Bar’s Professionalism Award in 2019. He taught Trial Advocacy at the University of Idaho College of Law for several years. He lives in Moscow with his wife, Dr. Sarah Nelson. Their son, Luke, is now a videographer and filmmaker in Los Angeles.



Bird hunting with Adrian, Tim’s German Shorthaired Pointer. Photo by Chuck Kovis.

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Homegrown Professionalism

Distinguished Lawyer, Charles A. Homer

Lindsey M. Welfley

Background

Charles Homer, also known as Chuck, is a true Idaho native who has contributed to the Idaho Falls community his entire life through his practice of law. Born and raised in Eastern Idaho, he now spends his winters in Arizona migrating back to Idaho as soon as the snow melts. Affiliated with his firm for 50 plus years, the defining characteristic of Chuck's career has been an inspiring dedication to professionalism, a sentiment echoed by many.

Career Path

Chuck's interest in the legal profession, he recalls, began in junior high when he assumed he would go into some kind of "profession," but he didn't like science, so

he humorously determined "the medical field was out of the question." In his eyes, that left the legal field. As he matured, he realized his love for rules and logic would be an asset in a career in law.

Chuck graduated from Idaho Falls High School in 1967 then headed down to Provo, Utah for his undergraduate education. After earning his bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in economics from Brigham Young University, he returned to Idaho and attended the University of Idaho College of Law, where he served as articles editor for Law Review and clerked at Holden Kidwell Hahn & Crapo during his second and third years. After graduating *summa cum laude*, he returned to the firm for the duration of his lengthy professional career.

Chuck specialized in transactional law, specifically real property and

commercial transactions. Half his time was spent on these matters, while the other half was spent on commercial litigation. Chuck humbly states, "None of my litigation was anything real earth shattering." However, he was involved in several cases before the Idaho Supreme Court which reviewed and interpreted Idaho mechanic's lien statutes. Chuck also obtained favorable opinions from the Idaho Supreme court on various corporate disputes, including breach of fiduciary duty, piercing the corporate veil, and breach of the covenant of good faith and fair dealing. Chuck does take pride in his time as the firm's managing partner for 30-plus years. A testament to his patience, he mentions, "That was a pretty good accomplishment, just being able to keep all those attorneys happy for all those years." He also has represented national and international corporate clients who



Chuck and Marci taking in the sights at Glacier Bay National Park. All photos courtesy of Chuck Homer.

have stayed with him for most of his 50-year legal career.

Outside of Work

Chuck and his wife, Marci, have four children and nine grandchildren. Their oldest daughter is a labor and delivery nurse at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City; their next daughter is a school administrator in Idaho Falls; their oldest son is a social worker and counselor in Idaho Falls; and their youngest son is an attorney practicing in “the big leagues” in Manhattan. Chuck dedicated his life to both his career and his family, leaving little time for “real hobbies.” Instead, he mastered at the cabin with his family building campfires, landscaping, loading and unloading kayaks, guiding boy scouts, and cooking pancakes on a grill.

Though he doesn’t recall a long list of traditional hobbies, Chuck has been active in quite a few Bar activities while also dedicating his time to several civic

service clubs. He served three terms on the Idaho Law Foundation’s Board of Directors, during two of the three terms serving as President. He served for several years on the University of Idaho College of Law’s Law Advisory Council, including two years as chairperson. He has also served on the steering committee, and as chair for the Access to Justice Idaho campaign. As he begins to wind down his practice, Chuck’s current project is serving on the Board of Directors and as co-treasurer for the Community Fund of Sun City West—a charitable organization that provides funding for individuals living below the poverty line.

Chuck has received several accolades and awards throughout his time in practice. Chuck notes, “It’s one thing to be a really good attorney, a good litigator, and to win cases; but it’s also important to be someone people can trust and respect.” He received the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award for the Seventh District, the Eagle Rock Inns of



Chuck and his wife, Marci, enjoying Alaska’s great wilderness during a cruise this past spring.

Court Professionalism Award, and the Idaho State Bar Professionalism & Ethics Section's Richard C. Fields Civility Award. When recounting the awards he's received over the years, he humbly mentions his gratitude for these honors, stating, "When I look back on the awards I've received, most of them have been for professionalism and civility. I am proud of this recognition because it says, 'Not only are you a good attorney; you're a good guy.'"

Role Models

Chuck Homer has had many personal mentors and role models including his father and grandfather. He states, "They taught me to work hard. You name a job and I've done it." The labor was physically demanding and taught him important

lessons in doing a job well which shaped him early on.

In his professional life, he mentions how fortunate he has been to have several powerhouse leaders in his firm: "Three of the attorneys in my firm have received the Distinguished Lawyer award as well—Bill Holden, Terry Crapo and Fred J. Hahn. They have all been my mentors."

He mentions that Fred Hahn taught him that opposing counsel was not the "enemy" and to connect with people. "We spend too much time dancing around what needs to be said. Just talk to me like a person." He also said Bill Holden taught him to practice law with civility and to be a gentleman. He described Terry Crapo as a rare individual who was both humble and charismatic, with an IQ that was off the charts.

When discussing additional topics, Chuck reflects on the importance of the rule of law and our judiciary. He states, "As attorneys we have a duty to respect and enforce the rule of law so that everyone is subject to the law equally and recognize no one is above the law. It is important to recognize how much we rely on our judges to interpret and enforce the rule of law. The Idaho judges I have worked with have always been dedicated to the rule of law, unbiased and professional."

Chuck believes Idaho attorneys are privileged to be served by the Idaho State Bar and Idaho Law Foundation, which are among the best in the nation. He expressed his thanks to the Idaho State Bar for recognition this year as a Distinguished Lawyer. Chuck considers this recognition an honor and a privilege.



Chuck enjoying time out on the water at Island Park, just north of Idaho Falls.





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Melding Passion with a Rewarding Career *Outstanding Young Lawyer, Alexandra Hodson*

Lindsey M. Welfley

Introduction

In speaking with this year's Outstanding Young Lawyer, Alexandra Hodson, it is clear she cares deeply for two things—her family and balancing her passions with her profession. Born in Salt Lake City, Utah with three older brothers, Alexandra and her family moved to Boise when she was six months old after the passing of her father. She has spent her entire life since in Idaho, attending Borah High School, Boise State University, and finally the University of Idaho College of Law.

Career Path

Alexandra's decision to become an attorney was one she made early on and set her on a very definitive path. She recalls

the precise moment this path was made clear, stating "I will never forget it and that's why I'm a lawyer today." In one of her ninth-grade classes, she had a teacher (Mr. Graves) who decided she was going to be the lead attorney in the mock trial case they were working on. "I still do not know why he chose me for that role, but I took it very seriously and was really invested. I was obsessed with it." She remembers pouring over every fact, every detail. "It lit a fire in me, and I just knew, this is it."

With this path laid out, Alexandra attended the University of Idaho College of Law where she discovered intellectual property law during a brief lecture on the subject in her first year. She remembers learning about the landmark 1995 United States Supreme Court decision in *Qualitex Co. v. Jacobson Products Co.* in which the Court held that a color alone

can be registered as a trademark. She thought that was fascinating and from then on, she set her sights on practicing in that field. "Everywhere I look, there's intellectual property. From my tennis racquet to the French fries I order at the diner. I'm continuously amazed at what the innovative spirit can accomplish and invigorated by the creative minds I have the pleasure of working with each day."

During law school, Alexandra interned with the intellectual property legal department of a Fortune 500 tech company and externed with the intellectual property legal department of the J.R. Simplot Company. Both provided her invaluable experience in the field, and she remains grateful for those opportunities. Upon graduating law school and being admitted to the Idaho State Bar, Alexandra clerked for Idaho Supreme

Court Justice Joel Horton until his retirement, after which she continued her clerkship for Justice Gregory Moeller. In 2019, she was recruited to move into a position with the Boise office of Parsons Behle & Latimer. There, she handled intellectual property matters and “all sorts of other things too,” until 2022 when she jumped up a few floors in the building to work with Holland & Hart. About a year and a half later, she lateraled back to Parsons, where she now maintains a more robust practice in intellectual property law, helping businesses file applications, develop their intellectual property strategies, and defend, enforce, and litigate if needed.

In addition to her work at Parsons, Alexandra has worked as an adjunct professor with the Entrepreneurship Law Clinic at the University of Idaho College of Law since 2020. She notes that this is incredibly rewarding work and one of her favorite things to do because the Clinic is able to assist local small business owners and budding entrepreneurs who may not otherwise be able to afford the help they need.

Alexandra has also served as the Idaho State Bar Intellectual Property Law Section’s secretary and chair, the Litigation Section’s secretary, Idaho Women Lawyers Community Service Committee co-chair, Women’s and Children’s Alliance ambassador, University of Idaho College of Law student mentor, secretary and member of the Riverstone International School’s Governance Committee, and is a 2025 graduate of the Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers.

Role Models

In line with her deep value of family, Alexandra considers her brothers her original role models. “They raised me and are really amazing people; each of them is smart, kind, and inspiring in his own way. And I’m their favorite sister. Helps that I’m the only one, but I still wear it with pride.” Professionally, she notes a few of her role models and mentors: Margaret McGann, Juliette White, Howie Belodoff, and Chris Cuneo (her defacto mentor at the firm and “other big brother”).



Alex with her family in Portugal in June 2025. All photos courtesy of Alex Hodson.

Advice to New Lawyers

In reflecting on her own experience during law school and at the start of her career, Alexandra would encourage law students and new attorneys to weigh the benefit of adding obligations to their already busy schedules. It's okay to say, "I don't have the capacity for that right now." "When I was in law school, I was doing every little thing I could get my paws into because I thought it all mattered so much. Looking back, almost none of it mattered for my career." This resonates with her even now, as she still strives to take her own advice. "Do the things that are important to you. There's no need to do everything. Pick the few things that bring meaning to your life or your career and focus on those."

Alexandra would like to thank her husband, Scott, for being ridiculously supportive of her wild dreams; her daughter, Laela, for being her reliable accomplice in complete, unabashed silliness; and her son, Leland (the OG), for being the reason she kept climbing even when the mountains felt impossibly steep.



Alex's tennis team winning the district tournament last year in Boise.



Alex (center) with Justice Moeller as a law clerk in 2019.



Parsons Behle & Latimer IP Attorney Alexandra Hodson Named Idaho State Bar 2025 Outstanding Young Lawyer

Parsons Behle & Latimer is proud to recognize Alexandra Hodson for being recognized as the Idaho State Bar's 2025 Outstanding Young Lawyer—a well-earned honor that reflects her excellence in the legal profession and her commitment to community service.

Hodson adeptly represents a diverse IP clientele, from innovative startups to global corporations, managing complex domestic and international IP portfolios while simultaneously finding the determination and drive to consistently serve her community and continue her professional growth. From all of us at Parsons, congratulations!

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Top row, left to right: Megan O'Dowd, Scott M. Chapman, Hon. Thomas W. Whitney, Josh D. Hurwit. Bottom row, left to right: Richard C. Mellon Jr., Laird B. Stone, Hon. Rudolph E. "Rick" Carnaroli, Julie Stomper.

Professionalism Awards 2025

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?

Megan O'Dowd – First District

Values: I was fortunate to begin my legal career under the mentorship of Marc Lyons, who modeled the kind of lawyer—and person—I aspire to be. Marc received this same award during my first few weeks in private practice, and what stood out most was not just his legal skill, but the respect and kindness he extended to everyone—even his fiercest adversaries.

That early example stayed with me. I try to keep it simple: treat others as I would want to be treated. While we are all committed to advocating for our clients, it's important to remember that opposing counsel is also a human being—and often a neighbor, friend, or fellow member of our community.

Advice: Never let a client, supervisor, or partner pressure you into filing something—or communicating with the court or opposing counsel—in a way that doesn't sit right with you. There will always be more jobs, more clients, more cases, but you only get one reputation.

At the end of the day, you have to be able to look yourself in the mirror and feel proud of the work you've done. Protect that. It's more valuable than any win.

Megan O'Dowd is an Idaho native who earned her J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law in 2010, graduating summa cum laude. She was admitted to the Idaho State Bar that same year and served her first year as a law clerk to the Honorable Justice Jim Jones of

the Idaho Supreme Court. She has since built a diverse legal practice grounded in real estate and public agency law.

A former Realtor and daughter of a surveyor, Megan's work naturally centers around real estate—including land use, title evaluations, development entitlements, and litigation. For over a decade, she has also served Idaho's public-school districts and local public agencies, advising on contracts, personnel matters, governance, strategic planning, and related matters.

In addition to her legal practice, Megan is a certified mediator and provides third-party investigation services across a range of matters. She brings a collaborative, solution-oriented mindset to every case, grounded in the belief that effective resolution begins by empowering parties to resolve their own conflicts.

Scott M. Chapman – Second District

Values: To always attempt to achieve the best result possible for my clients and to treat opposing counsel and parties with respect. Always be honest with the court, counsel, and clients.

Advice: Do not sacrifice your well-being or family in pursuit of your career. You can be a good lawyer without sacrificing those things!

Scott graduated high school at International School Moshi, Tanzania in 1975, received his B.S. from the University of Oregon (go Ducks!) in 1979, J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1985 (he is a proud member of the blue-collar study group). His practice has focused almost entirely as a trial lawyer starting out both as a criminal defense and personal injury attorney, then progressing to almost entirely criminal defense.

Hon. Thomas W. Whitney – Third District

Values: Both as a lawyer and as a judge, I've worked to ensure that every litigant

has a full and fair opportunity to have their case heard.

Advice: Be an aggressive advocate and zealously represent your client but always be fair to both sides. Pay attention to your work/life balance, and don't let the practice of law negatively impact your relationships with your loved ones.

Judge Thomas Whitney was a school-teacher in Bonners Ferry before attending law school at the University of Idaho College of Law. Upon graduation, he hung out a shingle in Moscow, and built a general litigation law practice there. Rural Idaho has been very good to him, and he is grateful for it. After 20 years in practice, he was appointed to serve as a district judge in the Third District. He wanted to serve as a district judge in a very busy courthouse, and he enjoys the people and the extremely intense pace of cases in Canyon County. His is grateful to have been welcomed so warmly in the Third District and to have been re-elected there in 2022. Judge Whitney currently serves as the Administrative District Judge for the Third District, on the Felony Sentencing Committee, as a Pro Tem Justice for the Idaho Supreme Court, and as a Statewide Mentor Judge.

Joshua D. Hurwit – Fourth District

Values: The legal profession is a function of our nation's commitment to the rule of law. Our system is designed and intended to bring forth the strongest arguments on both sides of an issue, and every single role—prosecution and defense, or plaintiff and defense, as well as the judiciary, the jury, and witnesses—is necessary for the system to function. Especially during the heat of litigation, I try never to lose sight of the fact that we all have a critical role to play.

Advice: As a young lawyer, I felt compelled to decide what type of practice I wanted to pursue and to seek out opportunities to learn from lawyers in those practice areas. In hindsight, I have a deeper appreciation for how much I learned not just from those specialized litigators, but from all the

attorneys, judges, and other legal professionals I had the privilege of working with.

Josh joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Idaho in 2012 as an Assistant United States Attorney. He first served in the Civil Division before transferring to the Criminal Division, where he investigated and prosecuted complex cases involving financial fraud, environmental violations, and organized crime. In 2022, he became the presidentially appointed and Senate confirmed United States Attorney for the District of Idaho, a position he had the privilege to hold through February 2025. After departing the U.S. Attorney's Office, Josh became a Special Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Latah County.

He graduated from Harvard Law School in 2006 and started his career in New York City, where he clerked for the Honorable Naomi Reice Buchwald of the Southern District of New York and was first admitted to the bar. Josh has worked at international law firms in both New York and San Francisco, and is a member of the Idaho, New York, and California bars.

Richard C. Mellon Jr. – Fourth District

Values: Try to be courteous and respectful toward those with whom you deal. If something (anything) feels wrong or dishonest, don't do it!

Advice: Study the art of writing. *The Elements of Style* is a good start. Focus on the task at hand and what is realistically important within that task; this business can bewilder and overwhelm you if you don't. Observe closely the practices and conduct of experienced lawyers but only adopt and apply what works for you. Don't expect to succeed by ignoring or dismissing what doesn't conveniently fit into the ideal construct of your case.

Richard graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1972. He moved to Idaho and began a two-year clerkship with Justice Allan Shepard in 1973 and

then was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1974. Along with Bob Tyler and Jim LaRue, he joined the firm of Elam, Burke, Jeppesen, Evans & Boyd in 1975 and worked there until 1994, increasingly concentrating his practice in the field of insurance law. The partners at Elam & Burke who were most instrumental in his progress and maturation were Carl Burke, Allyn Dingel, John Simko, Jack Gjording, and John Magel. In search of a more balanced life, Richard joined State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company as in-house counsel in January of 1994 and worked there until his “retirement” in 2010. Andy Brassey and Nick Crawford were kind enough to invite him to join their firm in October of 2010, and he has worked there since, primarily in the field of insurance coverage analysis.

Laird B. Stone – Fifth District

Values: “I do the very best I know how; the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out alright, what is said against me won’t amount to anything. “If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.”
- Abraham Lincoln

Advice: Be civil with others; keep your word (honesty); family comes first; take time for yourself; remember you can’t solve everyone’s problems.

Laird was born and raised in Gooding, and graduated from Gooding High School. He is a proud Idaho Vandal, graduating from the University of Idaho (“U of I”) in 1975 with a B.S. in marketing. While at U of I, Laird was a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity. Laird obtained his J.D. in 1978 from the College of Law, where he served as Attorney General for the student body. He is also a graduate of the College of Advocacy at Hastings Law School and the National College of Criminal Defense at the University of Houston.

Laird was admitted to the Idaho State Bar and all courts of Idaho in 1979. He served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Robert Newhouse. He then

began his career as a litigator with the Ada County Public Defender’s Office in Boise. He later moved to Twin Falls and worked as an associate at the firm of Nelson, Rosholt, Robertson, Tolman & Tucker. In 1987, Laird joined the firm Stephan, Kvanvig, Stone & Trainor as Partner in 1987 and has been there ever since.

In addition to his regular practice with the firm, Laird serves as a mediator for all manner of disputes. He is an administrative hearing officer for Idaho state agencies.

When not at the office, Laird enjoys spending time with his wife, Vickie (a fellow Vandal and a fabulous baker), his two sons, AJ and Grayson (also Vandals), their wives, and his grandkids. When not spending his time with his family, or playing a round of golf, Laird spends his time working to make his community better for all, particularly for children.

Laird practices in several areas of personal law, business law, family law, divorce, state and local law, and property law. He has received many awards throughout his career, some of which include Ada County Employee of the Year in 1981 and the Idaho State Bar Service Award in 2015. He has served on many committees and volunteered his time in many ways through the years, including serving on the Idaho Law Foundation’s Board, and as an Idaho State Bar Commissioner—one year of which he served as Bar President.

Hon. Rudolph E. “Rick” Carnaroli – Sixth District

Values: We should treat others with respect and in the way we wish to be treated, trying to reserve judgment and actively listening to them. We never really know what another person’s story is, what they’ve been through, what they are currently going through, all of which shapes how they appear to us when we might meet and interact. Kindness is never wasted on another person. Volunteerism is essential to community. The teachings of my parents and my coaches in sports developed an appreciation of the value of preparation and a good work ethic as keys to success.

Advice: I’d advise myself to find a good work-life balance and to make more time for my family. Spouses, significant others, and our children sacrifice so much when we get absorbed in the practice of law. Show the people in your life that you love them by your actions and attention to them. Even today, it remains difficult to leave my work at the office. At 67 years of age, I am still a work-in-progress trying to find good work life balance.

Judge Rick Carnaroli fell into a career in law after falling short of his then lifelong goal to play professional baseball. He was a two-team NAIA Academic All American in baseball at Pacific University and was a member of 1979 Team USA College Baseball team that toured Japan and Taiwan. He is a District Judge for the Sixth Judicial District, appointed to the district bench in January 2018 by Governor Butch Otter. He is currently the Administrative District Judge for the Sixth Judicial District, the Co-chairperson for Idaho’s Tribal Court State Court Forum, and serves as the Idaho judiciary’s representative on the Idaho Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Committee. Judge Carnaroli presides over the Sixth District Veterans Treatment Court and in the past has been temporarily assigned to preside over the 6th District’s DUI/Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Wood Court, and Power County Drug Court. He was appointed as a Sixth District Magistrate Judge in 2004; served on the Idaho Pro Bono Commission from 2008 to the present; as an Officer of the Idaho Magistrate Judges Association from 2013 until his appointment to the District Bench; and the Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners from 2003 until 2006. He received his B.A. from Pacific University in 1980, his J.D. from Willamette University in 1985, he was admitted to the Idaho State Bar and the Idaho Federal Bar in 1985, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 1993, and the Supreme Court of the United States in 1999. Rick practiced for 10 years in civil and criminal private practice as a trial lawyer with the law firm of Green Service Gasser & Kerl in Pocatello before taking a position as Chief

Civil Deputy and Risk Manager for the City of Pocatello. He and his wife, Drema, have four adult children, and two grandchildren, Jackson and Levi, and reside with their six dogs and two cats on ten acres in the mountains east of Pocatello.

Julie Stomper – Seventh District

Values: One of the many valuable concepts I took away from the Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers is that we all have one or two values that guide both our personal and professional lives. All other

professional values, such as integrity, excellence, and achievement naturally flow from those core values. My core values are honesty and growth. Striving to be a better attorney, mother, friend, runner, and human is immensely gratifying and grounding.

Advice: I would give my younger self three pieces of advice. First, always honor your core values above all else. It is wonderful to learn from mentors but don't try to be them. Second, focus on constant and consistent improvement rather than perfection. Third, give yourself and everyone you meet as much grace as possible.

Julie was admitted to the Bar in 2006 after graduating *cum laude* from Gonzaga University School of Law. She had the good fortune to spend most of her career in private practice at the firm of Beard St. Clair Gaffney PA focusing on business, real estate, and construction. Two and a half years ago, Julie took the opportunity to diversify her knowledge base by joining the brilliant team of in-house counsel attorneys at Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC working on issues in support of cutting-edge energy research. She recently opened a solo law practice, focusing on real estate and business transactions.



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Service Awards



Top row, left to right: Hon. Debora K. Grasham, Ken Howell, Taylor Mossman-Fletcher, Will Fletcher. Bottom row, left to right: Diane Minnich, Amanda E. Ulrich, Fonda Jovick.

Service Awards

The individuals selected for this year's Service Awards include people 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?

Hon. Debora K. Grasham

Why Service? Service to my community and profession over the past 35 years has given me enormous personal satisfaction in working with people from around our state for the improvement of our profession. Idaho has a small bar. That means you can make an outsized impact on the bar—and the future of the practice of law in our state—with your involvement. I am particularly proud of helping to bring the stories of many great lawyers and judges in Idaho history to light through my involvement with the “First 50 Women in Idaho Law” and *Tents to Towers* projects.

Advice: Everything is going to work out better than you had ever dreamed, you just need to work hard and trust your instincts.

Seek out lawyers and judges that you admire and then follow their lead.

Judge Grasham attended U.C. Berkeley for her undergraduate degree, and Santa Clara University for law school. She served as Editor-in-Chief of the Santa Clara Law Review and passed the California bar in 1990. After law school, she joined Davis Wright Tremaine in Seattle and became a member of the Washington bar in 1991. In 1996, Judge Grasham moved to Boise with Davis Wright Tremaine and joined the Idaho Bar. In 1999, she joined Givens Pursley in Boise and practiced in the area of commercial litigation, specializing in media law and employment litigation. On April 1, 2022, she was appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Idaho and has held that position ever since.

Ken Howell

Why Service? As a citizen of this community, I have an obligation and a desire to help make it a better place, both for me and for the future. Professionally, I serve on the Client Assistance Fund to assure that our profession makes our community better by seeking to make whole those who have been injured by an attorney's dishonest conduct.

Advice: Take regular vacations.

Ken received his B.A. from the College of Idaho and went to law school at the University of Idaho. From 1984 to 1992 he was an associate at Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley LLP then became a partner in 1991.

Ken has served in many capacities over the years including as a founding board member and President of Board of Friends of Channel 4 ("PBS"), member of Boise Philharmonic Board of Directors, board member and President of the Downtown Boise Association, board member and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the College of Idaho, board member of Opera Idaho, Chairman of the Board of the Arid Club, Inc., founding board member of Feed the Gap, Inc. (non-profit providing meals to Idaho children), member and President of the Rotary Club of Downtown Boise, Rotary District Governor for District 5400 (Southern Idaho), Law Day chair for the Fourth Judicial District (appx. 1986), and finally, a member of Idaho State Bar Client Assistance Fund.

Ken is proud to have practiced law with the associates and partners at Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley, LLP, uninterrupted for the past 41 years.

He is grateful to Deputy Bar Counsel, Julia Crossland, one of his closest friends, for nominating him for this award. It has been his privilege to work with her on the Client Assistance Fund for many, many years.

Taylor Mossman-Fletcher

Why Service? Serving my community is personally important to me because I have three daughters who are impressionable and eager to learn—so it is imperative to show them that service is a value we have as a family and one that is at the top of our list. Professionally, serving the community, and in particular—the Idaho State Bar—is important because it keeps me connected. Professional connections keep me inspired, engaged, and educated. Of course, voluntary professional service also translates into a profound sense of responsibility and gratitude for me. I am grateful that I have the privilege of devoting my time and resources for a common good.

Advice: I would tell my younger self two things. First, I would advise not to be scared to try new things. The law can be daunting, but it isn't necessary to continue practicing law a certain way just because "that is the way it has always been done." It is okay to test the water. Second, I would tell her that it is okay to say "no." Clients will be unreasonable, opposing counsel may be difficult and some cases simply are not worth the toll they will take on your quality of life. You can serve your clients, family and community better by not spinning your wheels on things where your time won't be valued.

Taylor Mossman-Fletcher grew up in Idaho and learned to love spending time in the outdoors. She graduated from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado in 2002 with a degree in economics. She graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 2006. Mrs. Mossman-Fletcher is a member of the Idaho State Bar and the Idaho Trial Lawyers Associations ("ITLA"). Following law school, Mrs. Mossman-Fletcher clerked for Judge Ronald Bush in Pocatello, from 2006 to 2007. She is admitted to practice before the Idaho Supreme Court, the United States District Court, District of Idaho, the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mrs. Mossman-Fletcher

is an active member of the American Inns of Court. She is a past president of ITLA, a graduate the of Idaho Academy of Leadership for Lawyers and a four term IALL steering committee member.

Mrs. Mossman-Fletcher's legal experience includes jury trials and Idaho Supreme Court arguments. She has successfully tried hundreds of Social Security and Worker's Compensation cases to hearings. She also has high appellate remand rates at the Federal District Court of Idaho on Social Security appeals. She is the recipient of the ITLA's Walter Bithell Professionalism Award, Idaho Business Review's Accomplished Under 40 Award, Women of the Year Award, and Leaders in the Law Award.

Mrs. Mossman-Fletcher focuses her practice primarily on representing Social Security disability, workers' compensation, medical malpractice and personal injury claimants. She lives in Boise with her husband and three children.

Will Fletcher

Why Service? We have become the people we are by being fostered by great communities. It is a privilege to now be able to give back, even in small ways, to the communities and the people who have provided so much enrichment to our lives and relationships.

Advice: Find those smart risks and take them with aplomb.

Will Fletcher serves as General Counsel at Zasio, a global leader in information governance software and consulting solutions. A proud graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law (go Vandals!), Will has been practicing in Idaho since 2008. Will enjoys the dynamism and adventure that each day brings in the tech law landscape. Outside of work, he finds that same dynamism and adventure raising three daughters with his lovely wife, Taylor.

Diane Minnich

Why Service? I think it is important to give back to your community and to serve others, especially for those of us who have the time and resources to do so. It is important to the well-being of our communities, and it is fulfilling. It is also an opportunity to build relationships and make lifelong friendships.

One of my early mentors told me, volunteering and service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.*

**This quote is attributed to Mohammed Ali and Shirley Chisholm."*

Advice: Remember that you learn from your mistakes. It is okay not to get it all right in your early years. What you learn will help you make better decisions as you go forward.

Diane worked for the Idaho State Bar and Idaho Law Foundation, Inc. for 39 years, 34 years as the executive director. She served for six years as Secretary-Treasurer of the Western States Bar Conference. Volunteer activities include past member of the Board of Directors of the Silver Sage Girl Scout Council, Boise Public Schools Foundation Board member, Board of Directors of Friends of Zoo Boise, Boise State University Legal Assistant Program Advisory Council member and a member of the Boise Rotary Club, serving as the club's president in 2003-04. She is a graduate of San Jose State University.

Amanda E. Ulrich

Why Service? Community service is a priority to me because my community has given me so many opportunities, both personally and professionally. Serving my community through various groups gives me a chance to build relationships with other community members I might otherwise never get the chance to meet. Community service brings us together, which is always important, but it is especially important right now.

Advice: If I could give my younger self some advice when I was starting my law practice, I would tell her you are far more capable than you think! Though there is a lot to learn when you are just starting out, you've got the skills, training and brains to do it. Do not let self-doubt be self-limiting and give yourself some grace.

Amanda E. Ulrich spent her formative years in Southeast Idaho and is a 2008 graduate of University of Idaho College of Law. Amanda is a partner at Casperson Ulrich Dustin PLLC in Idaho Falls. She practices in the areas of employment and labor law, as well as general litigation. She has experience representing both employers and employees, and has litigated employment-related civil rights claims, as well as non-compete contracts and other employment-related matters. She has represented clients before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Idaho Human Rights Commission, the Idaho Department of Labor, and the Idaho Industrial Commission. She also represents clients in Title IX actions and other civil litigation matters. She has appeared in state court, federal court and before the Ninth Circuit, and is admitted to practice law in Idaho and Washington. Ms. Ulrich volunteers for various community and bar organizations, including Girl Scouts and Seventh Judicial District CASA Program. She served as the President of the Seventh District Bar Association from 2020 to 2021, served on the Law Advisory Council for the University of Idaho College of Law, and is currently a board member of the Idaho Law Foundation and the Idaho State Bar Employment and Labor Law Section of the Idaho State Bar. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and three children, and taking advantage of all the wonderful outdoor opportunities Idaho has to offer.

Fonda Jovick

Why Service? As an attorney, serving my community represents the intersection of

my professional calling and my personal values. Community service keeps me grounded in the real-world consequences of legal decisions and policies. There is something deeply satisfying about using my professional skills to solve problems for people who genuinely need help, rather than just representing those who can afford to pay.

Advice: Be patient with the learning curve. The law school version of legal practice bears little resemblance to the actual reality of the practice of law. It takes years to develop judgment, client relations skills, and practical wisdom to make you truly effective.

Always remember that this is a service profession at its core. The clients who seem the most difficult and demanding are often the people facing the most stressful situations in their lives.

Fonda graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in 2004 and became a member of the Idaho State Bar later that year and then the Washington State Bar in 2009. After working in the world of family law for a couple of years as an associate attorney, she felt ill equipped to deal with the vast array of personality issues, addiction, and parenting dynamics that she was encountering in her family law and estate administration practice, so she obtained a master's degree in forensic psychology in 2013 from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

Fonda has practiced in many areas of the law over the years, often being kindly referred to as a "utility infielder." After over 20 years in the legal industry, she has narrowed her focus to estate planning, probate and trust work, and as representing municipalities and governmental entities in addition to maintaining a mediation practice. She has only worked in two law firms since beginning her career: Paine Hamblen, PLLP from May 2003 to December 2014 and Lake City Law since January 2015, where she is a founding member and the managing partner.

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Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Awards



Top row, left to right: Heath B. Wells, The University of Idaho College of Law Boise Clinic team (top) and Moscow Clinic team (bottom), Angela Celyn Sasser. Bottom row, left to right: Clay Gill, Bruce Castleton, David Michael Taylor, Scott A. Pearson, Matthew Bardsley, Daniel E. Biddulph.

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 for any member of the Idaho State Bar to aspire to. Each year, we honor Denise's legacy by awarding attorneys in each judicial district with the Denise O'Donnell Day Pro Bono Award, recognizing their admirable decisions to prioritize pro bono service in their practices. In addition to providing biographical information, this year's recipients were asked the following two questions:

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

Heath B. Wells – First District

Why Pro Bono? Having grown up in rural north Idaho, I understand some of the incredibly barriers to entry for legal services. Coming into law later in life, I can look back at the numerous times I needed legal representation but simply could not even afford to consult with an attorney. After obtaining my law degree I

quickly realized the flood of people with legal needs and no resources to obtain paid representation. It is important to me that my office always strives to give back where possible.

Encouragement: Pro Bono work is difficult, and it tends to come with unique struggles both professionally and personally. But in the end, you get to help real people with real problems. The gratitude coming from clients when you are successful is something that we do not often see in this profession, and it is extremely satisfying to know that you helped produce a result that you believe is the right

thing. The other part is that you can select only the cases that you actually believe in. Being selective and proactive in pro bono work can lead to the highest sense of accomplishment.

Growing up in Bonners Ferry, Heath Wells attended the Gonzaga University School of Law and was admitted into the Idaho Bar in 2020. After a few career transitions, Heath started Tamarack Legal Services PLLC, where he employs one additional attorney and six staff to handle cases mainly involved in family law and guardianship throughout the first judicial district.

The University of Idaho College of Law Clinics – Second District

Why Pro Bono? There is a great need for legal assistance throughout the state of Idaho, and many people and small businesses in our communities cannot afford private attorneys. The clinical faculty recognize their unique position of being able to provide free legal services while simultaneously training and mentoring our law students. Many of our students leave our clinical program with an understanding of the value of, and need for, pro bono work, and the impact they can have on their communities through this service. Our hope is that students will strive to incorporate pro bono work as part of their professional identity and fulfill their service expectations as members of the profession.

Encouragement: The College of Law has multiple opportunities for attorneys to participate in pro bono work while mentoring and teaching law students. From volunteering to assist at a wills clinic, to accepting a pro bono case through IVLP and then recruiting a student to assist with it, to bringing students in for special projects, attorneys can engage in pro bono work in a variety of ways, both big and small.

The University of Idaho College of Law clinical program seeks to provide students with meaningful real-life experiences while offering high-quality legal

services to underserved members of our communities. The College currently has seven law clinics.

The Community Law Clinic is housed in Moscow and is supervised by Clinical Professor Jessica Long. Students in the Community Law Clinic represent clients throughout the Second Judicial District in family law matters and students also advise and represent tenants having disputes with their landlords, defend clients in consumer debt actions, and draft simple wills.

The Immigration Litigation and Appellate Clinic is supervised by Professor Geoff Heeren and Clinic Fellow Betsaida Chavez-Hermes; students from both Moscow and Boise participate in the clinic. Students in the Immigration clinic represent clients in appeals before the Ninth Circuit and the Board of Immigration Appeals; assist clients before the Immigration Court, the Asylum Office, and in interviews for other immigration benefits; and conduct community outreach, education, and trainings. The clinic also has a partnership with Washington State University to provide information and limited advice on immigration-related matters, primarily to DACA applicants and recipients. Each spring, two students from the Immigration Clinic argue a case before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Family Justice Clinic is housed in Boise—serving clients in the Fourth District—and is supervised by Instructor Anya Perret. Students in the Family Justice Clinic assist survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault seeking civil protection orders and represent clients in their family law cases. The clinic partners with Faces of Hope.

The Entrepreneurship Law Clinic is housed in Boise and is supervised by Assistant Professor Nick Smith and aided by attorney Alexandra Hodson. It helps entrepreneurs and small business owners by providing advice and preparing their business formation documents, also assisting with obtaining trademarks and drafting contracts and documents necessary to operate the business.

The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic is supervised by Instructor John Hinton and is funded through a multi-year grant from the

Internal Revenue Service. Professor Hinton is based in Boise, but students from both Moscow and Boise participate in this clinic. Students in the clinic assist low-income individuals who have tax disputes with the IRS and provide education and outreach to individuals who speak English as a second language. Students may also travel to Tax Court in Boise, Salt Lake City, and Reno to provide on-the-spot advice for taxpayers.

The Criminal Appellate Clinic is supervised by Professor Katie Ball and began serving clients in spring 2024. The State Appellate Public Defender refers cases to Professor Ball for consideration. Students in the clinic handle all aspects of the appeal, including interviewing the client and other relevant persons in the case, reviewing the record, identifying issues for appeal, preparing the notice of appeal, drafting the opening and reply briefs, and arguing before either the Idaho Court of Appeals or the Idaho Supreme Court. Students from both Boise and Moscow also have had the impactful experience of visiting their clients at various penal institutions around the state.

After a year of development, the Tribal Law Clinic launched in fall 2024 at our Moscow location to complement the College's Native American Law Program ("NALP"). The clinic is run by Professor Jessica Millward. She and her students are currently developing a Medical-Legal Partnership with a tribally run health clinic. Medical-Legal Partnerships are partnerships between a medical provider and a legal aid clinic with the goal of reducing patient barriers to accessing an attorney and improving overall patient health by addressing the social determinants of health. Students in the Tribal Law Clinic also represent clients in criminal matters in the Nez Perce Tribal Court.

Students participating in the clinics are in their third year of law school and have limited licenses to practice law in the State of Idaho. They are required to work a minimum of 135 hours in the clinic each semester. In sum, the clinics have the dual benefit of helping students prepare for practice while providing a tremendous service to local and regional communities.

Angela Celyn Sasser – Third District

Why Pro Bono? Growing up in Idaho, I was surrounded by family and community members who consistently volunteered their time and resources. Volunteering has always been a part of who I am, and I believe it is the Idaho way! Whether it's at my children's schools, my service with non-profits, through my church, or IVLP, volunteering keeps me grounded and allows me to truly understand the needs of others. I have met some of my best friends and associates through volunteer work.

Encouragement: Reap the dividends of pro bono work! I have found service, even in the law, benefits me more than the client. Make pro bono work a priority, even if you only take on one pro bono case a year. In doing so, you will realize your unique skills and training as an attorney can truly change the lives of others. IVLP and the Idaho State Bar are very helpful in providing resources to assist you in pro bono work, as are other attorneys who are happy to tackle your inquiries and offer templates.

Angela attended law school at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law with distinctions as a dean's list member, and as a recipient of the Witkin Award for Negotiations and Settlement. She graduated in December of 2002 and took the Idaho Bar in July of 2003. She clerked for Ada County district judges Darla Williamson and Kathryn Sticklen in 2004 and 2005. Thereafter, Angela worked for Sasser & Inglis, Sasser & Jacobson and Sasser Law Office.

Clay Gill – Fourth District

Why Pro Bono? Our veterans pay an incredible price to protect our freedoms, including my grandfather who died in World War II and my father who served in the Navy. The message in front of the VA says it all, "the price of freedom is visible here." Providing pro bono legal services for a veteran is the smallest of sacrifices I can give to them for their service to our country.

Encouragement: Navigating the legal system is challenging for anyone, especially the poor and vulnerable. Find a cause that is near and dear to your heart and then commit, you won't regret it.

Clay Gill is Senior Counsel for J. R. Simplot Company. Clay's team manages Simplot's litigation, employment law, and labor law matters. Clay's core professional philosophies are integrity, simplicity, and hard work, while constantly striving to improve the legal services that his team (including outside counsel) delivers to Simplot. Before joining Simplot, Clay's was a partner at Moffatt Thomas and Hawley Troxell, specializing in commercial litigation and employment law.

Some of Clay's successes in his 20+ years in private practice include: (1) getting a retaliation lawsuit brought by the EEOC tossed out of court, and an order requiring the EEOC to pay a significant portion of his client's attorney fees; (2) collecting over \$25 million from the federal government for breaching its loan contracts; (3) collecting over \$11 million from a national franchisor who breached its distribution agreements, including an award of \$4.5 million in punitive damages; and (4) collecting over \$6 million for an executive whose business partners terminated the executive's employment contract without good cause.

Clay is a graduate of Boise High (1987), Vanderbilt University (1991), and Tulane Law School (1994).

Bruce Castleton – Fourth District

Why Pro Bono? Pro bono work allows me to step outside of my own practice and be an attorney for the sake of just helping anyone who may need it. I have found that doing pro bono work makes the work I do for my regular clients more focused, and it gives me a better perspective in doing it. The amount of help I feel I really give to pro bono clients varies based on their needs and my ability to help them, but I have never felt it wasn't worthwhile to do or that it wasn't appreciated by the people I was trying to help.

Encouragement: Do what you can. Everyone has some time to give, and there are many different ways you can give something and I've found that every time you give, it truly means something to someone.

Bruce is a native of Preston, Idaho. He earned his bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of Idaho. Following that he spent some time in the active-duty army as an artillery officer, and then attended law school at Brigham Young University. Upon graduating law school, he clerked for Chief Justice Linda Copple Trout of the Idaho Supreme Court, and then entered private practice. He spent fifteen years at Naylor & Hales in Boise where he became a senior partner before starting his own firm, Castleton Law, in 2020. His practice mainly centers on public entity litigation defense and risk management. He is married with four sons and spends a good deal of time watching football and traveling in order to watch football.

David Michael Taylor – Fifth District

Why Pro Bono? I would be remiss if I did not share with others the talents and resources I have been blessed with. Being in estate planning, I do not get a lot of opportunities to help those in the legal community in need; however, I am grateful when and opportunity presents itself.

Encouragement: Life is short. Life is hard. Life is harder for some than others. Your level of difficulty may not be the same for someone in need of legal services who cannot afford them. Bless them and that will help you put the importance of service into perspective.

David worked in the restaurant and customer service industry for nearly 15 years before he applied for law school. After graduating from Boise State with a degree in English writing in 2009, he was unsure how to use his college education to find a career. Thankfully, Concordia School of Law

came to Boise and made his decision easy to attend law school. During law school, he interned at Idaho Estate Planning, P.C. for just over a year. David was admitted to the bar in 2018. After failing as an estate litigation attorney, he decided to start his own practice in Estate Planning in Twin Falls. David's wife, Kellie, works side by side with him at the law firm. David often says that he is more a salesman and that she is more of an attorney. They are parents to boy-girl twins who are ten years old.

Scott A. Pearson – Sixth District

Why Pro Bono? "Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from the praise of men but from doing something worthwhile." Sir Wilfred Grenfell

It really is kind of self-serving for me. I find joy in helping other people. It's one of the reasons I journeyed into this profession, to help others in any way that I could.

Encouragement: Don't wait for the big moments or the grand opportunities. You have to go to them. Small acts and short steps will lead to big moments and grand opportunities.

Scott graduated with a B.A. in political science from Idaho State University in 2014 and received his J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law in 2017. The bulk of Scott's career has been in public defense with a recent departure to prosecution with Bannock County. Scott and his wife have an amazing family with four children and recently welcomed

their first grandchild. In his prior life, he was a member of the Idaho Army National Guard for just over 14 years, from 2001 to 2015. That experience took him around the world and had a profound impact on who he is today. Unfortunately, an injury cut his enlistment short, but he still tries to give back and engage with the Veteran community whenever he can.

Matthew Bardsley – Sixth District

Why Pro Bono? Pro bono work is important because it is one way we as attorneys can use our knowledge and skill to help vulnerable populations.

Encouragement: A Gallup Poll done at the end of last year showed a massive drop in the public confidence in the judicial system. Pro Bono work can be one way to help restore confidence in the work we do.

Matthew attended law school at the University of Idaho Law School. He was admitted to the Bar in 2018. He started his career at Lovan Roker & Rounds working under two excellent attorneys, Tyler Rounds and Matt Roker. Matthew moved back to Pocatello in 2021 and began clerking with Honorable Rick Carnaroli. He has been clerking with Judge Carnaroli for the last four years and is extremely grateful for the guidance and mentorship that he has received.

Daniel E. Biddulph – Seventh District

Why Pro Bono? Pro bono work is a way to ensure the legal system serves everyone, not just those who can afford it. I believe access to justice is a foundational principle of our profession, and pro bono work allows me to use my skills in a way that directly improves lives, communities, and trust in the legal system. It also reminds me why I became an attorney in the first place: to advocate for people when they need it most.

Encouragement: You do not need to take on dozens of cases to make a difference. Even one matter can have a lasting impact on someone's life. I have found that pro bono clients are some of the most grateful people I have ever worked with, and the work itself is often some of the most meaningful. I would encourage attorneys to look for a cause or a need that resonates with them personally. It is good for the community, and honestly, it is good for the soul.

Dan is a civil litigation attorney based in Idaho Falls with Parsons Behle & Latimer. He earned his law degree from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in 2021 and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar the same year. His practice focuses on business and real estate litigation, and he represents individuals, small businesses, and larger organizations in both state and federal courts.

Dan and his wife are raising four kids, which keeps life full and busy. He enjoys golfing whenever he can find the time.



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THE IDAHO STATE BAR & IDAHO LAW FOUNDATION

A Brief History

Diane K. Minnich

In hopes of consolidating the histories of both organizations into a more quickly digestible format, former Executive Director and Anniversary Committee Chair Diane K. Minnich prepared the following "brief history," covering the highlights of both the Bar and Foundation since their respective beginnings.

IDAHO STATE BAR – 100 YEARS

The past few issues of *the Advocate* have included legal profession and bar highlights for each decade since the early 1900's. This article features highlights of the Bar's work and accomplishments over the past 100 years, placing emphasis on the growth and change that we still experience today.

Portions of the Idaho Code pertaining to the practice of law in Idaho date back to 1881, before Idaho was a state. The present "integrated" Bar was established by the Legislature in 1923 and 1925. Idaho was the third mandatory bar established in the country. As an integrated bar, attorneys practicing law in Idaho must be licensed by the Idaho State Bar ("ISB"). The ISB was set up to operate under the power and authority delegated by



The original Law Center building.

the Idaho Supreme Court through its rule making power and under the statutory authority of the Legislature. The Idaho Bar Commission Rules govern the responsibilities of the Idaho State Bar. The first Bar Commission Rules were nine pages, with four sections: Admissions, Rules of Conduct, Rules of Discipline and General Rules. The ISB is

and has been financed by license fees paid by each Idaho attorney together with miscellaneous fees and revenues. It is and has been totally self sufficient and requires no tax dollars.

As noted by previous authors, the proceedings from the Annual Meetings were transcribed in 1921, 1923 and each year from 1925 to 1974, (except

1943 and 1945). Much of the information regarding the first 50 years is gathered from these transcripts.¹

In 1925, there were 629 licensed lawyers, and Idaho's population was 431,866. License fees were \$5.00. In 1926, the bar's total expenses were almost \$2,000. The first ISB president was John Rice from Caldwell. There were three elected commissioners. The local bar associations were active in the bar from the beginning. The first Bar secretary and the only employee (part time) was Sam Griffin, who served from 1919 to 1951. The first Annual Meeting was in 1925, held in Lewiston. The meeting rotated around the state until 1941, when it was held in Sun Valley. Sun Valley was then the Annual Meeting's location almost every year until the early 1970's.

During the first 20 years, the Bar's objectives were: admissions, discipline and legal education. In 1945, the general welfare and assistance to lawyers was added. The admissions and disciplinary responsibilities were administered directly by the Commissioners, with assistance from the part time Bar secretary. The Canons of Professional Ethics were added in 1937. There was a Judicial Council from 1929 until it lapsed in 1932, reciprocity was abolished in 1937 (it was included in the first Rules), Resolutions were presented at every Annual Meeting, ranging from one to 15 or 20 on a variety of subjects, with support for the judiciary and legislation topping the list. The selection of judges and court procedures and rules were discussed at every bar meeting for decades. A few issues were discussed with no action, such as diploma privilege, and starting a Bar Journal.

In 1950, there were 550 licensed lawyers (79 less than in 1925), and the Idaho population was 590,000. License fees were \$10, increasing to \$15 in 1951. The Idaho Bar Commission Rules were about 36 pages. The admission requirements were reviewed and revised in 1950 to require additional education. The first award of Merit was presented in 1956 to Oscar Worthwine. The first issue of the Advocate was distributed in 1957. 1962 was the first

year the bar retained outside legal counsel to assist with discipline. In 1967, the Judicial Council was added to the Idaho Statutes. In 1968, the Bar agreed to study legal aid and moving the law school. In 1970, the client assistance fund was established. The lawyer referral service was started in 1972. The 1972 resolutions included a legal intern program, updating the resolution process (the proposal resembles the current process), changing to letter size paper, and increasing the bar commission to either seven or nine members. Eventually, it was increased to five Commissioners.

In 1975, there were 1,050 lawyers and the Idaho population was 832,000. License fees were \$150. The audit of the bar financials was 5 pages. There were only minor amendments to the Idaho Bar Commission Rules between 1950 to 1975. This started to change in the 80's. CLE requirements were added in the early 1980's. The Rules were rewritten and recodified in 1986. The Idaho Rules for Professional Conduct were added in 1986. Section Rules were added in 1994. The first full time Executive Director and Bar Counsel were hired in the mid 1970's. In the early 1980's the first two Practice Sections were established, Family Law and Bankruptcy. In the late 80's, computers arrived, which allowed the bar to generate and track information efficiently and more quickly. Special thanks to Annette Strauser, the longest serving bar employee (over 40 years), for creating the computer system

and continuing its improvements and upgrades over the years. Bar support for legal aid and pro bono was formally expressed starting in the early 1980's.

In 2000, there were 4,075 lawyers, and the Idaho population was 1.299 million. The license fees were \$275. 2000 through 2015 were the years of rule changes; six sections were reviewed, revised, rescinded and replaced. Two new sections were added: Lawyer Assistance Program and Trust Accounts. Out of state lawyers could not be active members of the bar until 2001, when reciprocity was established. In 2023, reciprocity was eliminated, allowing attorneys from another state to be admitted to the bar if they meet the requirements for admission. Idaho is one of the few states to require malpractice insurance, beginning in 2018.

In 2025, there are about 7,300 lawyers and the Idaho population is slightly over 2 million. License fees are \$485. In the last 50 years, license fees have increased six times. In 2024, expenses were \$3.6 million, and the bar audit was 70 pages. There are currently 23 bar staff members and 23 Sections of the bar. The Bar Commission Rules are now 61 pages, with 13 sections. The Bar continues to be governed by five commissioners, elected from Idaho's seven judicial districts.

The admission rules win the most amended category, followed by the many variations of the professional conduct rules. The bar's support for judges, courts and the judicial system has been constant; many of the resolutions



Breaking ground on the new building on Jefferson St. in Boise for The Law Center in 1993.



The first members of the Idaho State Bar.

addressed by the bar supported judges and the courts. The support and participation of the local (now district) bars has also been constant. Special thanks to the Bar Commissioners, especially those in the first 50 years who handled both governance and the administration of the bar's responsibilities.

Trying to capture highlights and accomplishments from the bar's 100 years is a challenge. The bar's commitment to regulating and improving the profession and supporting lawyers and judges has not wavered – hopefully it has only improved!

IDAHO LAW FOUNDATION, INC. – 50 YEARS

The Idaho Law Foundation, Inc. ("ILF") was organized in 1975 for the purpose of providing a public service arm of the Idaho legal profession. It is a nonprofit corporation charged with charitable, scientific, educational goals, and seeks improvements in the administration of justice on behalf of both the Bar and the public. All attorneys licensed by the Idaho

State Bar are members of the Idaho Law Foundation. Since the ILF was founded, the executive director of the Idaho State Bar has also served as the executive director of the Idaho Law Foundation.

The Foundation's articles of incorporation were filed with the Idaho Secretary of State in March 1975. The signers were Mack Redford, Robert Erickson, and Allyn Dingel. The original bylaws were adopted later that year, signed by Jess Hawley, Mack Redford and Allyn Dingel. Robert Erickson was a tax attorney who provided wise and valuable advice over the years regarding legal issues related to the relationship between the bar and the Foundation.

Originally there was a 12 member Board of Directors. However, pursuant to the original bylaws adopted, it became an 11 member Board of Directors. In 1977, it changed to a 9 member Board, in 1980, the bylaws were again amended to a 12 member Board including the past president. In 1982, yet another amendment increased the Board to 13

members, including two non lawyers and the Dean of the University of Idaho College of Law. This is still the Board composition. The first ILF president was Judge Thomas Nelson from Twin Falls. Of the 29 ILF presidents, seven have also served as ISB Commissioners. One non lawyer served as the ILF President, George Alvarez, who was a Boise Cascade Corp. executive.

In 1975, the primary focus for ILF was to serve as the vehicle to receive tax deductible donations and allow a building to be purchased as a permanent home for the Idaho State Bar. In 1975, the Foundation purchased the building at 204 W. State Street as the Bar and Foundation office for \$80,000. Attorneys donated \$53,500 to a capital campaign to purchase the building. A few attorneys personally signed as guarantors on the building loan. The State Street office, built in 1895, was the original home of Charles Marshall Hays, who was admitted to the bar in 1873. He served as a district attorney, U.S. Senator

and Municipal Court Judge. Several of his relatives were also attorneys, including Ada County Magistrate Richard Grant. In 1993, the Foundation purchased land at 525 West Jefferson and built The Law Center, the current home of the Bar and Foundation. The Jefferson Street location was formerly the Ada County Clerk's Office, which was demolished due to its unsafe conditions.

In the Foundation's initial activities were included the sponsorship of continuing legal education programs, which was unique for a bar Foundation, and fund development. Additional programs have been incorporated into the Foundation since 1975.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

One of the original and continuing goals of the Idaho Law Foundation is to generate the necessary funding to fulfill the mission of the organization as well as maintain the effective administration and management of the Foundation's resources. This is accomplished through an annual giving campaign, grant writing, planned donations, and an endowment fund. The Endowment fund was established in 1986. The funds first year income was about \$1,500; the fund is now at almost \$700,000. In 2013, the Foundation helped launch the Access to Justice campaign to fund legal services to the disadvantaged, which has raised nearly \$2 million since its inception.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION ("CLE")

Initially CLE programming was solely provided by the Foundation. As the number of bar sections increased, CLE programming was done by sections and ILF. The CLE staff assists both the Foundation and ISB sections with CLE program planning. Typically, the CLE Department schedules more than 80 programs each year. The CLE Department also sells publications and provides online and webcast programming on a wide range of topics.

INTEREST ON LAWYERS TRUST ACCOUNTS ("IOLTA") – 1984-85

Idaho was one of the first states to adopt an IOLTA program. The IOLTA

concept was created because banks wouldn't pay interest on trust accounts due to the small amounts earned per client. The IOLTA program allowed attorney trust account funds invested in small or short term deposits to be pooled to generate interest money, which could then be transmitted to state IOLTA programs. ILF President Merrily Munther (1986-88) was instrumental, both nationally and locally, in the establishment of IOLTA programs.

The interest earned from IOLTA is submitted to the Idaho Law Foundation for use in the following public interest programs: legal aid to the poor, law related education for the public, improving the administration of justice, and law school scholarships. It can also be used for other programs if specifically approved by the Idaho Supreme Court. Since its inception, IOLTA has granted nearly \$8 million dollars to provide services and programs throughout Idaho.

LAW RELATED EDUCATION

The Law Related Education ("LRE") program was started in 1985 to help students and the public understand the role of law in a democracy, how and why our legal system operates as it does, the importance of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and the role of lawyers and judges. The first LRE committee chair Judge Deborah Bail, was committed to ensuring the success of the program. It continues to meet and exceed the original objectives. Program activities include the high school Mock Trial Competition, statewide teacher training, Attorneys for Civic Education, Law Day resources and providing LRE resources to teachers and lawyers.

IDAHO VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

The Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program ("IVLP"), formerly the Pro Bono Program, was established by the Idaho State Bar in 1983. In 1987, the Pro Bono Program was transferred to the Foundation (and renamed IVLP), which provided the program with access to additional grant funds and tax-deductible donations. The Idaho Volunteer Lawyers

Program provides a safety net for low income individuals and families in Idaho who require civil legal services and cannot afford to pay for them. Using a statewide network of volunteer attorneys, IVLP provides free civil legal assistance through advice and consultation, brief legal service and representation.

Thank you to the bar leaders who had the foresight, time, energy and resources to establish the Foundation. Due to their efforts, the organization has granted millions of dollars and provided services to thousands in Idaho, both the public and the legal profession. For 50 years, the Foundation has provided programs and services to assist and support lawyers and the public. The Foundation leadership and staff looks forward to many more successful years.



Diane Minnich served as the executive director of the Idaho State Bar and Idaho Law Foundation, Inc. for 34 years. She worked for the organizations since

1985, serving as legal education director and deputy director before being selected as the executive director in 1990. In addition to her involvement in professional organizations such as the National Association of Bar Executives, and serving as Secretary Treasurer of the Western States Bar Conference, she has served the following community organizations; past president of the Zonta Club of Boise, past member of the Board of Directors of the Silver Sage Girl Scout Council, Boise Public Schools Foundation Board member, Board of Directors of Friends of Zoo Boise, and the BSU Legal Assistant Program Advisory Council member. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of ALPS. She is a member of the Boise Rotary Club, serving as the club's president in 2003-04. She is a graduate of San Jose State University.

ENDNOTES

1. https://www.id.uscourts.gov/clerk/ilhs/Idaho_Bar_Transcripts.cfm.



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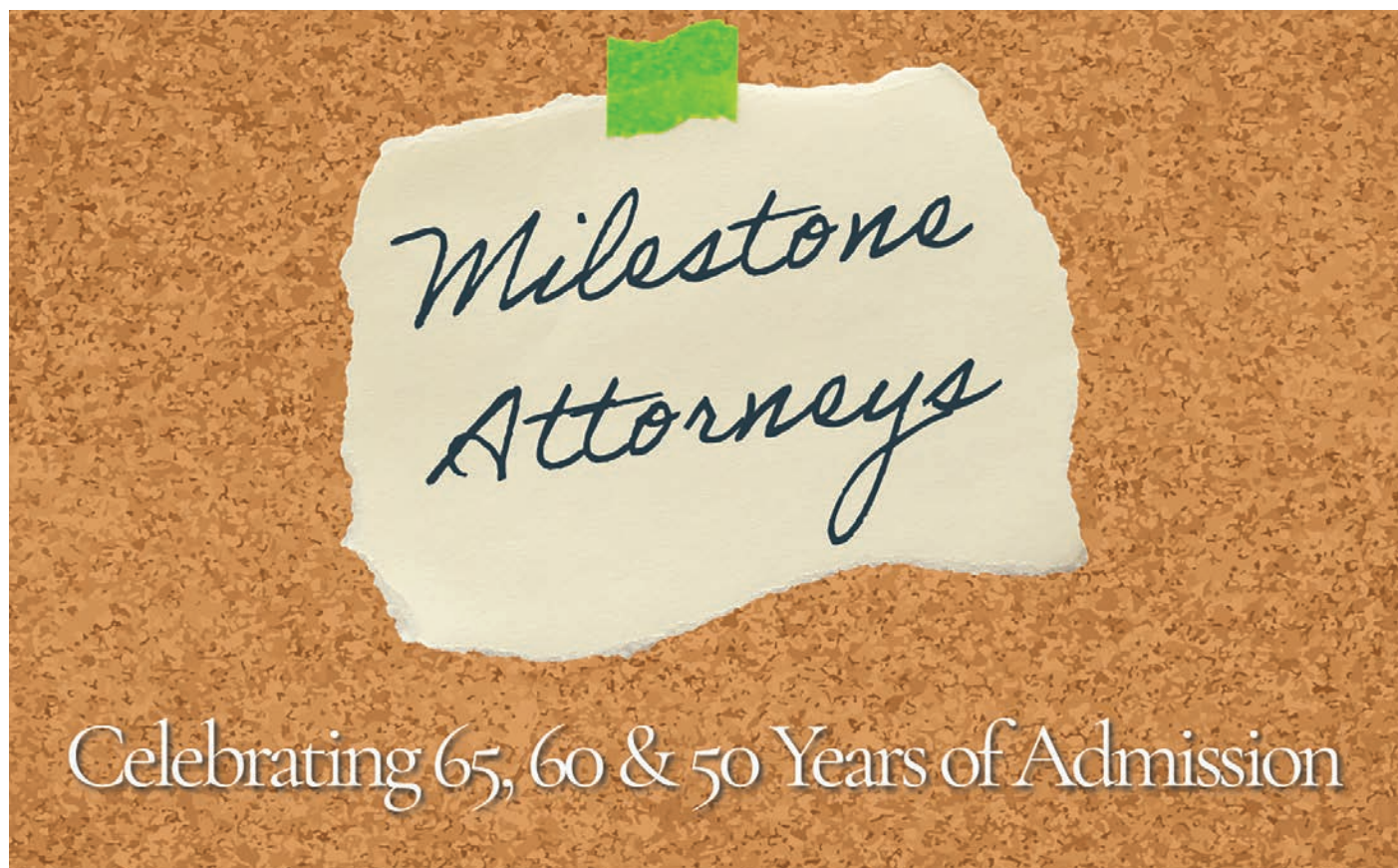
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Milestone Attorneys

The following several pages honor members of the Idaho State Bar who have been admitted for 65, 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: 65 Years

Robert Youngstrom

Robert Youngstrom was raised in Boise and attended Boise High School and the University of Idaho where he received his law degree. His first job after admission to the Idaho State Bar was with the office of the Ada County Prosecuting Attorney as a deputy. There he learned from prosecutors Bill Roden, Eugene Smith, Martin Huff, and Wayne Kidwell.

After several years with Ada County, he became legal counsel for what was

then the Idaho Department of Employment, dealing with administrative matters and unemployment insurance eligibility issues. After a little over a year, he accepted a position with the Industrial Accident Board, later renamed the Industrial Commission, as Referee. There he conducted hearings and prepared decisions on workers' compensation and unemployment insurance claim appeals for the commission.

In retirement, Robert has enjoyed maintaining a large yard and visiting with family members in California.

Milestone Awards: 60 Years

John H. Bradbury

John Bradbury graduated from the University of Michigan Law School. He lives in Lewiston, Idaho.

Michael H. Felton

Michael Felton's dream of one day becoming an attorney began at an early age. This was undoubtedly based upon growing up in a household where his father, Tom, was an attorney and later in his career a District Judge. He watched his father work long hours, express a desire to represent his clients in an ethical manner, and cultivate trustworthy relationships with other attorneys. Michael could think of no better way to live his life than what he saw his father doing. He went to the University of Idaho to get his degree in accounting and then to the University of Idaho College of Law.



Thanks to Bill Hart, Michael decided to travel to southern Idaho to interview for a job and it didn't take long to decide where he wanted to be. Throughout the next 23 years the partnership changed and grew. The firm's focus became personal injury and medical malpractice litigation. He found himself better suited to the family practice areas of law, so this change of focus eventually led to becoming a sole practitioner. This turned out to be the best thing that could have ever happened.

Barely, out of law school, he was elected to a two-year term as Twin Falls County Prosecuting attorney. The Fifth District Bar Association selected him for the 2021 Professionalism Award. These honors have brought a feeling of deep appreciation for the many people who touched his life and helped him achieve his boyhood dreams.

In the 37 years since, he has had the unique experience of guiding the direction of his own practice. Best of all, he had the rare and wonderful opportunity to practice law with his son, Mike Jr., who also graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1990. Mike's main office is in Twin Falls now but he still checks in at the Buhl office.

Michael has been married to his Gamma Phi sweetheart and companion through law school, Judy, for 63 years. They are extremely proud of their son, Mike, and his wife, Brenda. They are also blessed and equally proud of their daughter, Heather and her husband, Kurt, who have brought adventure and travel to foreign lands and their youngest daughter, Donna, who has proven that a successful professional career can be combined with teaching fitness classes. Their family has expanded to include grandchildren, Cooper, Morgan, Amanda, and Mateo. Michael and Judy hope they will be as happy in their lives as they have been in theirs. The huge part of that has been 60 years of law.

Thomas Frost

In the summer of 1965, Tom and his family left Kansas for Boise shortly after graduation from Washburn University Law



From left to right: Charlie Frost, Tom Senior, Jack Frost, Joe Frost and Tom Frost II.

School and completing the Kansas State Bar exam. Later that year he passed the Idaho Bar exam. Thanks in part to Professor George Ball at the University of Idaho College of Law.

He operated a private office for a period, but his most satisfying professional efforts were in the public sector. This service included the Idaho Attorney General's office as chief Deputy, appointment as assistant U.S. Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, and service as Legal Counsel for the Idaho Supreme Court. He also received a judicial appointment as a special prosecutor in a first-degree homicide case.

His personal enjoyment and gratifying moments over the years surrounded the beautiful outdoors that Idaho has to offer and watching his four sons, grandchildren, and great grandchildren participate in sports and school activities. Today, he is content to watch the local tom cat chase squirrels.

John Runft

John Runft graduated from the University of Chicago Law School. John and his wife, Enid, live in Boise.

Hon. Gerald Schroeder

Hon. Gerald Schroeder is a graduate of Harvard Law School. He served as a Magistrate Judge in Ada County from 1971-1975 and as a District Judge from 1975-1995. He was appointed to the

Idaho Supreme Court in 1995 and served as Chief Justice from 2004-2007. He lives in Boise.

William Boyd

William Boyd graduated from Boise High School, got his B.S. from Oregon State University ("OSU") in forest management and attended law school at the University of Idaho College of Law—the degree awarded at the time was LLB. He was a distance runner in high school and college. He ran cross country in the fall and two miles on the track in the spring. At OSU, he was a member of an NCAA Championship cross-country team. The discipline required for running and for schoolwork helped him in the legal profession.

His legal career began in 1965 with Brown, Peacock and Keane in Kellogg. The firm was engaged in the general practice of law with an emphasis on mining issues. His work included insurance defense, real estate and business transactions. They represented municipal corporate and publicly held companies which brought numerous kinds of issues to the office.

Upon the passage of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act in 1971, mining company clients were faced with environmental compliance. He became involved in issues connected with promulgation



of regulations for the control of air and water pollution. There were court contests of the rules as well as trial in court and administrative proceedings related to alleged violation of rules and regulations. Enactment of Super Fund followed. Clients were in state and federal suits involving violation of the act.

One of his favorite cases was a jury trial in state court in Wallace involving determination of the ordinary high-water mark of Coeur d'Alene Lake, this was necessary to establish the boundary line between private and public property. His clients were landowners adjacent to the St. Joe and Coeur d'Alene rivers upstream from the dam. The defendant was Washington Water Power. The basis of the complaint was the dam at Post Falls operated by the power company caused flooding of the plaintiffs' land. Their client argued this was a trespass. The jury determined the power company was liable. With that the plaintiff's claims were settled.

Establishing a solid professional relationship between him and lawyers and judges were an important part of his practice of law. He believes that it is necessary to be able to speak civilly with opposing counsel about issues arising in any case, discovery, motions, scheduling, settlement, whatever. Civility enables opposing counsels to get their job done and look good in the eyes of their clients. Complying with court-imposed timelines is imperative. He was pleased to be recognized with the First District Professionalism Award in 2013.

William is in Coeur d'Alene now. His family consists of his wife Joan who recently passed away, and two daughters Dana and Corey and their husbands and two daughters each. He enjoys duck hunting in the fall and until age stopped him, backpacking in the summer. He has owned his lake cabin for over 55 years. It is a fun and quiet place to visit in the warm weather. William ended his career giving legal advice about five years ago.

William D. Collins

Bill Collins was born in Idaho Falls in 1939. His early schooling was in Idaho

Falls and Pocatello until his family moved to Boise in December of his senior year. After graduating from Boise High School in 1957 he went to the University of Idaho thinking he wanted to be a scientist of some form and selected as his major the chemical engineering program. He graduated with a bachelors degree in chemical engineering in 1961. At that time those who entered the masters degree program received a fellowship which paid enough to cover expenses. You simply had to agree to work on a specific research project selected by your major professor and prepare an accompanying thesis. His project was the scale up of a venturi aerator. The project was published in a national journal. Midway through that project he thought maybe he should be a patent attorney. Patent attorneys often benefit from having a science background. He liked the law and had taken as electives some law related courses. But thought that he needed to broaden his academic experience and applied for admission to the Cornell Law School. He was accepted, finished his thesis, and completed his oral exams in September of 1962. The next day he caught a plane and registered at the Cornell Law School one week late. He received his master's degree in chemical engineering in 1963.

Midway through his first year at Cornell, he had a conversation with the dean who asked him where he was going to practice. He responded he was going back to Idaho and was giving up the idea of being a patent attorney. He really did not like leaving Idaho. The dean replied that he knew the dean of the law school at Idaho, Philip Peterson, it was a good school, and if he was going to practice in Idaho he should switch schools. He did that fall and graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1965, passed the bar and went to work for Allan Shepard in the Attorney General's office primarily assigned to what became the Department of Water Resources, supposedly because of his engineering background.

He left the AG's office in 1970 after five years. He and one other attorney, Howard Manly, entered private practice together working out of Ray Givens' office. After



William D. Collins.

a year they obtained separate quarters. As a way of covering expenses, Bill became the Boise County Prosecutor in 1970 succeeding Mike Southcombe. The office was considered a part-time position by way of contract with the county commissioners and the court's appointment on a case by case basis. There were no practicing attorneys living in Boise County. The county had been doing this for several years. As he recalls at that time the last elected person to hold the position was Lou Coshö. This allowed him to continue to maintain a separate civil practice in Boise. By 1975 the amount being paid by the county did not cover the overhead and he resigned. That two-person firm eventually became a five-person firm known as Collins, Manly and Williams. Mike Williams left the firm to go on the federal bench in 1983. He and Howard Manly continued until 1989 when they went their separate ways. In September of 1989 he joined Larry Westberg and Tom McCabe, creating the new firm of Westberg, McCabe & Collins. His son, Christian, later joined the firm. Tom McCabe left because of illness and retired. Eventually Larry retired and Christian sought work elsewhere, and Bill continued practicing solo.

Bill considers his years of practice to be very general doing a little of everything that came in the door which is difficult and inefficient because of the time needed to keep current and the associated expense of being knowledgeable in

several fields. There were areas of the law that he wanted to emphasize and did so and areas he elected to avoid. He ceased practice in 2024 after turning 84, going to the senior status not because he wanted to quit but because he did not feel it right to be in the middle of some project and then die leaving the client trying to pick up the pieces. There were two projects he wanted to conclude on which he had been working for many years. He felt he had both to a point where the clients with the aid of an attorney could easily pick up and conclude the work.

He has been married to his wife, Judy, for 58 years. They live in Boise and have two children, a daughter, Jennifer, and their son, Christian, with three granddaughters.

Donald J. Eaton

Donald Eaton grey up in Emmett and upon participation for two years in the Emmett High School's debate program, plus being part of the statewide Idaho Youth Legislature program, where he was elected Speaker of the House, he knew he wanted to pursue a legal education. Importantly, during his high school years, he met his wife, Irene Jayo, at a dance at the Boise Basque Center on Christmas night 1953. Their first date was the Sheep Herder's Ball in Boise two weeks later. They continued dating throughout their respective high school and college years, despite the distances between them and married in November 1959, after their respective college graduations.



Donald Eaton and wife Irene.

Donald attended Santa Clara University in Northern California as a pre-law student, continuing debate activities. His debate partner was Jerry Brown, former two-term governor of California. At Santa Clara, Donald was elected Student Body President and my Student Body Secretary was Leon Panetta, former CIA Director and U.S. Defense Secretary. Upon graduation Donald was awarded the Nobili Medal as the most outstanding graduate in the class of 1959. At graduation he also received commission in the U.S. Army as 2nd Lt., U.S. Armor Division.

After military service he returned to Santa Clara University for law school and had experience of serving as the Managing Editor of the Santa Clara Law Review publication. He took the California Bar Exam in 1964 and passed. To relieve the pressure, Donald returned to Idaho for an elk hunting trip with family. Although he had planned to work in the office of the District Attorney for Santa Clara County, while in Boise, he called upon a long-time family friend, Joe Albertson, and asked if he might be needing another corporate attorney. Joe promptly introduced Donald to his new company president, Jim Berlin, who offered him a position as a real estate attorney specialist who would be responsible for securing new Albertson's store locations. He moved Boise with his family and took his second bar exam. Twenty-three students took the Bar and 11 passed.

Donald enjoyed making deals for new store location. Many of these are still some of Albertson's best stores. In 1968 Pay Less offered him the vice-president position of in-house real estate and labor relations which he accepted. In 1974 he was promoted to President & CEO. He worked to expand the brand beyond California to Nevada and Hawaii. Pay Less sold its 83 stores to K-Mart in 1980. At this time Donald went to work for Trus Joist Corp. having been on its Board of Directors for several years. He managed its Western Division for two years. He later left that company to become CEO for eight separate start-up companies in the San Francisco

Bar Area over the ensuing 10-year period. He is now retired!

Donald and Irene have seven children, two boys and five girls. And ten grandchildren.

Admitted for 50 Years

H. Ronald Bjorkman

H. Ronald Bjorkman went to the University of Idaho College of Law. Ronald and his wife Marilyn live in Boise.

Hon. Deborah A. Bail

Hon. Deborah A. Bail is a graduate of Northwestern University School of Law and resides in Boise.

Josephine P. Beeman

Josephine Beeman came to Idaho in 1975 after graduating from the University of Oregon School of Law and after having married her classmate, Kelly Beeman, the year before. At that time, the Idaho State Bar was located at 2nd and State Street, in the former home of Kelly's great-grandfather.



September 1, 2007, Idaho Botanical Garden. Jo Beeman, Laura Gilmore, Kimberly Beeman, and Hillary Beeman.

Because of her B.A. and M.S. in biology before law school, Josephine went to work for Boise Cascade. A year later, she joined the Attorney General's office as legal counsel for the Idaho Department of Water Resources ("IDWR"), undoubtedly the best professional decision she's ever made. She still loves spending time with the people she met and worked with at IDWR.

After Governor Cecil Andrus became the Secretary of Interior, she got involved with *Andrus v. Idaho*, U.S. Supreme Court litigation affecting title to 11 million acres of land in the west. She spent the rest of her career in water law. The Snake River Basin Adjudication in Idaho, the single largest civil litigation west of the Mississippi, was a large part of her practice.

In all, her practice took her to 24 of the county courthouses in Idaho. One summer, she helped the Boy Scouts fill the lake at their camp. She also had the privilege of working with all the scientists involved with the modeling of Idaho's Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, the largest freshwater aquifer in the world.

She is grateful for the mentorship of attorneys Don Mitchell, Ray Rigby, Herb Rettig, Bill Parsons, John Rosholt, Kent Foster, Hugh O'Riordan, Terry Uhling, Roger Ling, Bill Collins, Jim Gillespie, Larry Westberg, and Terry Crapo and city attorneys like Dean Tranmer (Pocatello) and Don Roberts (Lewiston) who are such a backbone for their municipal clients and really stalwart legal practitioners, especially since cities have to provide water to "all comers."

Josephine still believes that the study of law enables anyone to be able to open a newspaper, look at any article, and confidently think that they could know exactly what is going on.

Josephine has always told her colleagues and court personnel that she practiced law by leave of her four daughters and now has four grandchildren; two carry the name of her daughter, Katherine, who died in 2011. Katherine's challenges taught her that even the most difficult problems should be solved.

Hon. Henry R. Boomer III

When Henry Boomer reflects on his time as an attorney he is reminded of his childhood. He remembers going to the movie theatre in Parma, Idaho with his friends. One night they saw the film "To Kill a Mockingbird." It was right then that Henry decided he was going to be a lawyer.

As he grew older, he started to feel conflicted about this choice. Henry had amazing teachers and coaches who made such an impact on him that he thought about the possibility of becoming a teacher. He ultimately decided on pursuing a career in law and if he didn't like it, he could still become an educator.

Upon graduation from the University of Idaho College of Law and admission to the Idaho State Bar in 1975, Henry and his wife, Deb, moved to Kamiah, Idaho. They made lots of friends, welcomed three fine little baby boys, and eventually, Henry became the Idaho County Prosecuting Attorney.

At the urging of American Falls lawyer, Ben Cavaness, Henry and his family moved to Idaho Falls to join Ben's firm and be closer to friends and family. This is where Henry got to scratch his coaching itch as well. He coached little kids' football and wrestling teams for many years. He even took a few bouts with the high school kids and came away with a broken wrist, broken and dislocated fingers, etc. to show



Henry and Deb Boomer.

for it. He also taught a high school government class on the basics of the law. His goal was always to "do some good" for the kids.

Late in the year 2000 Henry applied to become the Valley County Magistrate and "against all odds" he got the job. Just a hour before the section interview in Boise, he had learned that his wife, Deb, had been diagnosed with MS. He really had to compartmentalize for the interview. Moving to Cascade and McCall on short notice with a disabled wife wasn't easy but they got it done. He spent roughly 10 years in this position. He then took an early retirement and became a Senior Magistrate Judge. Henry also worked as mediator and arbitrator, taking cases all over the state. He eventually retired from law in full when his mother in law and daughter in law both passed away in 2018. In 2022, Henry and Deb sold their home and moved to Missoula, Montana where they now live. They live close to their middle son and his family and they all work together to keep the blended family happy.

During his time in Valley County, Henry was blessed not only to be the local judge, but also to support the local schools and their programs. In short, he spent over 40 rewarding years in the law, combining it with trying to help kids along the way, just as his teachers, coaches, professors and colleagues helped him so many years ago.

Lowell D. Castleton

A native of Malad City, Idaho, Lowell obtained his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University ("BYU") in 1968 and stayed on as the Director of School Relations



for BYU for four years. He obtained his J.D. in 1975 from the University of Utah S. J. Quinney College of Law. He then partnered with a close (and subsequent lifelong) friend, J. D. Williams, in Preston, Idaho, forming the Williams & Castleton law firm there.

Lowell served as the Magistrate Judge for Franklin County in the Sixth Judicial District from 1983 to 2003. He exclusively managed the “special calendar” in Bannock County for almost 10 years (adoptions, guardianships, termination of parental rights, and other similar matters).

After his retirement in the Sixth District, he was granted Senior Judge status and moved with his wife to Boise after 28 years in Preston. He accepted invitations from Ada County and the Idaho Supreme Court to act as Project Director and Presiding Judge for Idaho’s first domestic violence court, creating a “one family, one judge” structure for those involved in domestic relations cases—the civil protection calendar, criminal, divorce, and other matters arising out of domestic violence cases. Idaho now has domestic violence courts in all but one of Idaho judicial districts.

In addition to his responsibilities in Ada County, Judge Castleton was appointed to be the Director of Judicial Education for the Idaho judiciary. Annual conferences, new judge training and mentorship, and the development of training curriculum and materials were on his agenda as well as “staffing” the Education Committee of the Court, usually chaired by a member of the Supreme Court. This was the culmination of a lifelong dream to be a teacher and educator, like his father and all four of his siblings.

Another assignment from the Idaho Supreme Court was to chair and develop statewide Guardianship and Conservatorship Monitoring Programs, along with members of the Court’s committee in this substantive area. He co-authored and developed the Court’s “Prospective Guardian & Conservator Online Training Module,” still in use today. All magistrate courts in Idaho now have Guardianship and Conservatorship Monitoring programs and local staff to assist judges in these areas.

Upon his “second” retirement from the judiciary in 2011, he continued his legal career with missionary assignments by serving as Associate Legal Counsel for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in both the Asia Area for the

Church (21 Asian countries) from 2012 to 2014, and the Europe Area (40 countries) from 2014 to 2016. He served with his wife Marsha, a retired RN who managed medical and other tasks in multiple countries. They had residences in Hong Kong and Frankfurt, Germany, respectively. He closed real estate transactions for the Church in seven Asian countries and then in Europe managed all immigration matters for the Church throughout Europe, including immigration compliance challenges for the Church and its 5,000 missionaries in this Area during the refugee crisis of 2015.

Lowell and his wife, Marsha, returned in 2016 to Utah Valley and currently reside in Mapleton, Utah. They have seven sons and 28 grandchildren. Their eldest son, Trevor (Idaho Falls), has practiced law since 1998 and now focuses solely on mediation. They also have a son, Bruce (Boise), who practices law focusing on labor and employment law. He is a U of I graduate and received his J.D. in 2003 from BYU.

Despite recent health challenges, Lowell is commencing his eighth year as a volunteer at New Hope Academy, a private institution dedicated to students aged 6-18 with behavioral difficulties. He meets individually with selected students twice a week for mentorship and listening. This work draws heavily on his judicial assignments involving families and children in Idaho courts and brings him great satisfaction in helping these young people. He is rewarded with deep friendships and fulfillment from his association with the students—and the faculty and staff—at the Academy.

Mark L. Clark

Mark Clark is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law. He and his wife, Sharon Katz, reside in Nampa.

Gary L. Cooper

In 1972, Gary Cooper hadn’t given more than a few minutes thinking about becoming a lawyer. He applied to the University of Idaho College of Law (“U of I”) at the urging of a professor in the



Gary Cooper fishing with his family in Fall 2024.

political science department at U of I from where he had just graduated. That fall, he joined Ron Kerl, Hank Boomer, Dennis Goff, and many others as they embarked on the adventure to become lawyers.

In 1975, to the surprise of some, they all became members of the Idaho State Bar. Gary joined John Gunn in Caldwell, then moved to Pocatello to work for Lou Racine, Bill Olson, and Bob Huntley for the next 23 years. He couldn’t have asked for better mentors. In 1998, Gary’s friend, and brother, Reed Larsen, joined with him to form Cooper & Larsen, where they practiced together for the next 27 years. When Gary wonders where the time went, he is reminded of the lyrics from a Tonya Tucker song: “The days are long, but the years are lightning.”

Along the way, Gary has been supported by his wife of 53 years, Jane, and their three children, Aaron, Pete, and Elizabeth. After nearly 50 years in Pocatello, Jane and Gary moved to Orofino in 2024, where time feels slower and the biggest news is the quality and quantity of the steelhead and salmon runs.

Gary didn’t originally have plans to become a trial lawyer, but that is what he did for his 50 years as a lawyer. He tried over 80 jury trials and argued more than 40 cases before the Idaho Supreme Court. He didn’t win them all, but thinks he must have done something right since he was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates. In 2020, he was honored to receive the Idaho State Bar Distinguished

Lawyer Award. One of the highlights of Gary's career was serving as a Bar Commissioner from 2021 to 2024 and Bar President from 2023 to 2024. In that role, Gary was privileged to work with the Bar's staff, including Diane Minnich, Maureen Braley, Brad Andrews, Joe Pirtle, and fellow commissioners Anne-Marie Fulfer, Kurt Holzer, Laird Stone, Kristin Bjorkman, Mary York, Jillian Caires and Bob Jackson.

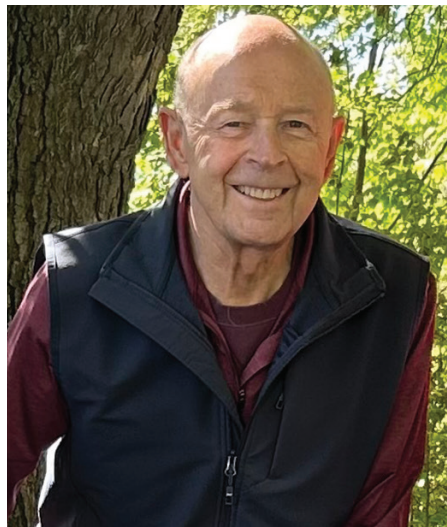
Richard A. Cummings

Richard Cummings is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law. He and his wife, Roxanne, reside in Boise.

Maurice O. Ellsworth

Maurice Ellsworth graduated from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in 1975. He took the Idaho Bar Exam and opened a sole practice, Maurice O. Ellsworth, Attorney at Law, in Hailey, Idaho, from 1975 to 1976. Maurice was elected Blaine County Prosecuting Attorney in 1976 for a two-year term then was a sole practitioner in Hailey until 1981.

Maurice joined the administration of Ronald Reagan and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1981 as Associate Solicitor for Audit and Investigation at the Department of the Interior. He advised the Inspector General of the Department on Audit and Investigative matters for all programs and operations



Maurice Ellsworth

of the Department. These included oil, gas, and coal leasing, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Mineral Management Service, Bureau of Reclamation and others. In that capacity, he drafted and Congress passed Federal Legislation to increase the Inspector General's investigatory authority for the Territories and Insular Possessions of the United States. Maurice traveled to and met with the presidents and governors of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Palau, Saipan, Guam, the Marshall Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Also traveled to American Samoa to assist in the audit of the Office of the Attorney General of American Samoa and discuss with the Governor.

In 1985, he was appointed United States Attorney for Idaho by Ronald Reagan and moved to Boise, and then was re-appointed by George H. W. Bush in 1991, served until 1993.

Maurice worked in private practice with Ellsworth, Ipsen and Perry, in Boise, or various iterations thereof, until 2011 then was general counsel for the Division of Occupational Licenses of the State of Idaho until 2019 when he retired. He is keeping his active membership in the Idaho State Bar, notwithstanding his retirement. Maurice oversees his family's two farms/ranches in Blaine County, as well as property in Utah.

The love and pride of his life is his wife, Julie, the Idaho State Treasurer, their three amazing children, and four grandchildren.

Dave R. Gallafent

Upon graduation from law school at George Washington University, Dave returned to his hometown of Pocatello and began his law career as an associate attorney at Merrill & Merrill, Chartered. After a couple years, he became a partner in the firm and later the managing partner. Since 2021, Dave changed his status to Of Counsel, continuing his transactional law practice on a part time basis. He is a past president of the Sixth District Bar Association and a recipient of the Sixth



David Gallafent in Yellowstone Park, December 2019.

District Bar's Professionalism Award. Dave noted that he was fortunate to have had excellent mentors in his early years of practice and collegial and talented partners and associates during all his years with the Merrill firm.

Over the years Dave served his community as a member of various service organizations, including leadership roles in the local chapter of the Red Cross, United Way, Idaho State Civic Symphony, and his church. He and his wife, Suzanne, have been marriage partners for 53 years and are the parents of two children, Michele and James. Nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren are now included in their family. Dave anticipates retiring at the end of the year to enjoy hiking more trails with Suzanne, seeing more of his children and grandchildren, reading more books, and serving in more ways.

Dennis Gibala

Dennis Gibala went to the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law. Dennis lives in Boise.

Hon. Dennis E. Goff

Judge Dennis Goff graduated from Payette High School in 1968, College of Idaho in 1972, and the University of Idaho College of Law in 1975. After graduating



Dennis Goff and his family.

from law school, Judge Goff had general law practice for a couple of years in Nampa. He handled every type of legal matter that walked through the door including criminal defense. He then became acquainted with Judge Morfitt who hired him as a deputy Canyon County Prosecutor. After a few years Judge Goff was elected as the Canyon County Prosecutor and served two, two-year terms.

In 1982, Judge Goff was successful in a contested election for District Judge taking the bench in January 1983. In 2003, Judge Goff retired and with permission of the Idaho Supreme Court started serving as a Senior District Judge. He is still serving as a Senior District Judge.

Judge Goff feels that he has been blessed to have been surrounded by competent trial lawyers, judicial assistants, court clerks, and staff. All these people have contributed to his success in his legal career. Judge Goff decided early on that he wanted to be involved in a legal career to help people.

Judge Goff's most notable achievement is his family. He has been married to his high school sweetheart for 56 years. He gives his wife, Cyndie, the credit for putting up with him. He is most proud of his son, daughter, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

Bruce H. Greene

For Bruce Green, it is hard to believe that it's been 50 years! He was admitted in 1975 and practiced mainly in North Idaho in Bonner, Boundary, and Kootenai Counties. He had a fairly broad



practice range but focused more on family law areas, closely followed by criminal defense. As time went on, he also focused on elder law, wills, and probate. Most of his career was at trial level, although he did take several cases to the Idaho Supreme Court, and later—once it came into being—the Idaho Court of Appeals.

Bruce was involved in several homicide defense cases, as well as dozens of other felony cases throughout his career. He says capital cases suck all the oxygen from the rest of your career and life when properly pursued. Even in later years he's enjoyed court appearances in intense cases, unlike a majority who prefer office practice, mediation, etc.

His career was spent primarily in private practice, although he did have several public criminal defense contracts and represented a few governmental agencies. He started out with his own father and his partner, transitioned subsequently to father and son practice, then solo upon his dad's retirement after 50 plus years as an attorney. His father, Raymond Greene, was also written up in *The Advocate*, then passed away after his long and satisfying career. He misses him still.

Bruce has two children who are pursuing careers of their own. It is his hope to spend more time with them, the grandkids, and even a great grandchild! By the time this gets published, Bruce will be married again, this time to his old college love. They met up a few years ago, and that relationship prompted a new consideration on life and full time practice to the almost exclusion of other life activities. Life is much happier now and full of travel, gardening, and volunteer work.

He has a few words for other attorneys, young or old, no matter what state of their career. "The verse Desiderata became well known when I was young and I've read and referred to it ever since. Its wisdom is reflected throughout and sets forth multiple goals and ideals to live by." Then—some years back—he read a spinoff on Desiderata as it applies to lawyers and how they practice. It was written by a local bar commissioner and published in *The Advocate*. He thinks it should be

republished periodically as it sets forth realistic, commonsense recommendations for all who practice law and who desire to be honorable, successful and content".

With not much else to say, Bruce likes his closing argument to be short, sweet, and to the point.

Lowell N. Hawkes

Lowell Hawkes graduated from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law and was an attorney with the Utah State Bar, before becoming an Idaho Bar member. In 1976, he worked at Woodland & Hawkes, Chartered, in Pocatello, then becoming Lowell N. Hawkes, Chartered for several decades.

In association with other firms, Lowell has tried cases and made appearances in state and federal court cases in Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Arizona, Hawaii, and New York. Much of his caseload has been personal injury, medical malpractice, business disputes, and representation of sexual abuse victims in civil and criminal cases. Lowell has continued to work mostly pro bono in Idaho and Utah. Ryan Lewis has taken over most of Lowell's day-to-day practice and has been the best partner and friend a lawyer ever had.



Lowell running in the Southern Utah Half Marathon in March 2025, wearing a Law Day 2017 shirt.

Lowell looks back at all the terrible client injuries and deaths and wrongs that he somewhat lived with clients and their families and reflects that he never had a single client who became a bitter and angry person. They had understandable reasons for their lives to be soured but chose to live life looking forward. He is proud to have been a lawyer and his life and his family's lives has been blessed by the many unique judges, court staff, and caring professionals who have taught kindness, patience, and a commitment to embracing the good.

Lowell, and his wife, Sue, have eight children and 16 grandchildren, who are spread around the western states. They have two great pups and love their small animals. Sue is active with the quilting community and Lowell has continued running since his friend gave him a lecture in 1978. This summer should be Lowell's 150th marathon and he continues to finish first... and last in his age group. He wants to die as healthy as he can!

William L. Herrington

In 2015, Will Herrington received the notice that the Bar would be honoring those who had practiced for 40 years at the Annual Meeting. He thought it would be nice to go and be honored. He went to the meeting and to his surprise, it looked like everyone he took the Bar Exam with in 1975 was still practicing. Will made the commitment to work 50 years to achieve some recognition that day... and he made it. Will congratulates his fellow honorees.

Will often gets calls from former clients asking if he is still working and his response is, "Yes, it keeps my brain functioning." He will probably be working until it stops functioning since he enjoys the work and feels as though it has a positive impact.

Will has a great love for the mountains and lakes of North Idaho. His great-grandfather, Fritz Montandon, came to Idaho in 1881 to homestead in the St. Joe River valley. Both his grandfathers and father were loggers in that area; Will is grateful to call Idaho his home.



Will and Patricia Herrington enjoying the outdoors.

He attended the University of Oregon for five quarters before being interrupted by the draft board for Vietnam. He had to enter the U.S. Army, and it took him five years to return and finish the last four quarters of law school. He remembers taking the Bar Exam was a challenge since he hadn't covered some of the material in seven years.

After passing the Bar, he accepted a job for the City of Pocatello. Jerry Olson was the City Attorney and a genuine and gifted mentor. The city manager, Chuck Moss, was also an inspiring, positive model of public service. These two men were the first of many great local government relationships that shaped his career.

One element of practice in Pocatello that stands out was the civility and respect with which members of the Bar treated each other. Will participated in the startup of the Idaho Municipal Attorneys' Association. From the years 1978 to 2002, he served as Secretary/Treasurer of the organization.

In 1980, Will moved to Moscow and started his private practice, serving part time as the Moscow City Attorney. During the 1990s, Attorney Jerry Mason and Will provided numerous day-long workshops on planning and zoning for local governments; he is often contacted by people who benefited from these events.

In 2002, he accepted the Sandpoint City Attorney position and moved to Bonner County. Over the years, he represented numerous local government entities (cities, counties, fire districts, urban renewal agencies, school districts, library districts, irrigation districts, homeowners' associations, even a drainage district) from every part of the state. Will has always had tremendous respect for elected local government officials.

He is proud of a couple cases from his career, including *Simmons v. City of Moscow*, which upheld downtown local improvement district assessments, but more importantly stated that councilpersons owning property in such districts did not have a conflict of interest in voting for government actions in such districts. Also, *Big Sky Paramedics v. Sagle Fire District*, which upheld the right of fire districts to provide ambulance services.

He has also been honored with some awards during his career, including, the Association of Idaho Cities, for "Service and Commitment" in 2000, the Idaho Planning Association, Distinguished Leadership Award in 2002, the Idaho State Bar: Professionalism Award in 2008, and in 2021, the Idaho Municipal Attorneys Association established a 'Will Herrington' award for service to the organization, awarded annually.

Since 1980, he has employed legal interns from the University of Idaho College of Law and wonderful long-term relationships with them have resulted. Over 40 of his former interns are currently practicing law, working for corporations, and serving as judges. Will is proud of them all.

Will's lovely wife, Patricia, is a behavioral specialist who positively impacts his behavior. His son, Field, is the Post Falls City Attorney and he also has two sons, Craig and John, as well as seven grandchildren. Will would like to extend an invitation to the other 50-year attorneys to contact him for a gathering in Coeur d'Alene and is looking forward to making it to 60 years of practice.

Leonard G. Hill

Not only does 2025 mark 50 years of membership in the Idaho State Bar for Leonard, more significantly it marks 60 years of marriage to his wife, Paula. Without her love, emotional, and financial support of the legal career that followed would not have happened. They married during his senior year at the University of California at Davis. Following university graduation and four and half years serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force, during which time Paula put her own education

on pause, Leonard enrolled and graduated in 1974 from the University of Pacific McGeorge School of Law.

It was Paula's desire to finish her degree at Boise State and that brought the two of them and their two sons to Idaho. Fortuitously at the same time there was an opening as legal aid attorney in Caldwell where Leonard began his career and met lifelong friends and fellow members of the Bar, Ray Givens, Steve McCrea and Mike Donnelly. Mike's friendship was particularly important as he and Leonard played tennis and poker (not at the same time), shared books, meals and tequila (until an unfortunate Christmas Eve toy assembly debacle) over the next 50 years. After almost two years as director at a community action agency Leonard decided to start a solo private legal practice. Practicing poverty law proved a poor initiation into the business world. Thus, ended that path and began a career with the Idaho Transportation Department.

Leonard is grateful for the guidance and trust Chief Legal Counsel, Bob Trabert, placed in him and for the friendship and camaraderie shown by fellow attorney Pat Fanning. Winning several eminent domain and construction claim cases on behalf of the department over six years was very rewarding work. One

of the best aspects of a legal education, however, is the life skills it provides. There is more than one way to practice law. After working as legal counsel for the Transportation Department, Leonard took a job as the Chief Real Estate Officer with the Transportation Department where his knowledge of eminent domain could be used to acquire and manage land for the state highway system. Over his 20-year career he became involved with the National State Transportation Association serving first as regional representative and later as the chairman of the association.

Along the way, Paula and Leonard bought a second home on the beach in Manzanita, Oregon where they continue to return several times each year. Away from work Leonard enjoyed coaching both his sons in youth soccer. Two lawyer friends, Newell Squires and Andy Chasan, were part of this adventure which at one point was so successful the league made them split their team and play against one another. Andy and Leonard also rode bikes all over Ada County, logging thousands of miles along the way. Since retirement 17 years ago it was Leonard's good fortune to know Marcus and Ozzie, two great dogs, that made a rich life all the better. It would be remiss not to mention ten years of neighbor dinners every Thursday and, over the past 30 years and several hundred books later, membership in the men's book club. When Leonard moved to Boise with a population of 70,000 it was amid what looked like a post-war zone. He is so glad for the choice he and Paula made in 1974. As Boise residents have known for a while and is touted in national publications, Boise is one of the top places to live in the county. What a wonderful 50 years it has been.

Terry G. Hogue

Terry Hogue was born in 1944, in Merced, California, to Glen and LaVonne Hogue. He had four younger sisters. He attended public schools in Merced, excelled in sports, served as a class and student body officer in junior high and



Leonard and Paula celebrating their anniversary in Venice, Italy.



Terry and his family.

high school, and became an Eagle Scout at age 12.

Expected to join the family butchering business, which boasted three generations of service, his path changed with a basketball scholarship to the University of California at Fresno. He met his wife, Joanne, at Fresno State when he was 18 and she was 17, married on October 3, 1969, and raised two daughters in Ketchum, Idaho. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science with honors in 1966 and completed one year of postgraduate study in political science at the same university. He then attended the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. After his second year, he served two years in the U.S. Army, was honorably discharged as a sergeant in 1971, returned to law school, graduated in the top 10% of his class, and passed the California Bar in 1972. Terry was also admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts in California in 1973.

He worked as an associate at a large Southern California law firm from 1972 to 1974 before moving to Ketchum, in January 1975. That year, he was admitted to the Idaho State Bar and the U.S. District Court in Idaho, followed by admission to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976, though he never argued a case there. His general practice was primarily in Blaine County. Terry served on the Blaine County Medical Center's Board of Directors for 16 years. He held leadership

roles, including chairman of the Idaho State Bar's Professional Conduct Board, member of the Fifth Judicial District's Magistrate and Ethics Commissions, and president of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association from 1989 to 1990.

He was a long-term member of the American Bar Association and a member of the American Association for Justice (formerly the American Trial Lawyers Association), where he served as secretary of the Council of Presidents and received the Wiedemann-Wysocki Award. He was a Master Charter Bencher of the American Inns of Court for Idaho's Fifth Judicial District, an officer and director of the Hailey Chamber of Commerce, represented the Sun Valley Ketchum Community Library Association pro bono for 28 years, and was a Hailey Rotarian for over 40 years.

He retired in 2017. He is currently an inactive member of the Idaho State Bar and California State Bar.

Roger J. Hoopes

After graduating from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1975, Roger Hoopes opened his own law practice in March of 1976 with another classmate. Theirs was the fifth law firm in their town. With the devastating failure to the Teton Dam in June of that year, theirs was the only law firm not physically ruined by the resulting flood waters.

His office has always been in Rexburg where he serves clients there and in the



Roger Hoopes in 2025 at R.J. Hoopes Law Office.

surrounding communities. Roger loves the practice of law and even served a few years as chief trial attorney in the Prosecuting Attorney's office. He is extremely grateful that he can still work and serve.

Roger has been married to his wife, Dana, for 56 years. They have three children and eight grandchildren, all of whom reside in South Eastern Idaho. They enjoy spending time with their children, grandchildren, and their families, and even all the performances, ball games, and extracurricular school activities. They also enjoy travel, weekend get-aways, and outdoor excursions in their side-by-side trail blazer.

Michael B. Howell

Mike Howell was born in Pocatello and attended Pocatello and Highland High Schools. He attended the University of Utah for one year before serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in France for 30 months. He then returned to the University of Utah from where he graduated in 1971 with a B.A. in French and a certificate in international relations. He graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1975. During his last year of law school, he met his wife, Jo, who was a senior in accounting. They were married in May 1975 and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have three children, 17 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

After graduation, Mike and Jo remained in Moscow until the bar exam and then moved to Salt Lake City for one year where he studied for and passed the Utah Bar Exam. Jo worked for an accounting firm. They moved to Meridian in July 1976. He worked as an Assistant Attorney General for 18 months before starting his own practice. He maintained a general law practice including contracting as the Ada County Juvenile Public Defender, attorney for the Idaho Horse Racing Commission, and the Idaho Department of Law Enforcement, including prosecuting drug forfeiture actions. He spent many years as a hearing officer for the Idaho Department of Law Enforcement and the Idaho Department of Transportation when it took over the motor vehicle and driver's license divisions. He was the hearing officer when the Administrative License Suspension ("ALS") law was enacted. After the law was affirmed by the Idaho Supreme Court, the Transportation Department established employee ALS hearing officers. He created and conducted a training program for those hearing officers. He continued for many years to consult with them and handle their conflict and overflow hearings.



Michael Howell with giraffes on Crescent Island.

In 1986, Mike began representing the largest collection agency in the state, devoting most of his practice to that area, acquiring other collection practices and eventually creating a large and respected collection practice for local and national clients. In 1994, he hired Robert Vail as a young associate and in 1998 they formed Howell and Vail, LLP. Their partnership continued until 2017, when he began planning for possible retirement. Rob wanted to emphasize his family law and mediation practice while Mike retained the collection practice. They continued to share office space and their close friendship. At that time, Mike formed M2 Law Group, PLLC and hired Michael Archibald as an associate. In late 2018, he retired, remaining Of Counsel, and Archibald took over the practice.

Mike and Jo have always enjoyed travel, with frequent trips to France and other parts of Europe where they have made many lifetime friends. In 2021, they lived in Nairobi, Kenya for 18 months where Mike was Assistant Area Legal Counsel for Central Africa for their church with responsibilities for 17 countries in Central Africa. They returned to Nairobi several months later for another 6 months to further assist. The area includes many francophone countries, so he continued to use his French language. They had many wonderful experiences while living in Kenya, including over a dozen safaris and walking with the gorillas in Rwanda. Africa has gotten in his blood, and he returns at least once a year to assist in freedom of religion conferences in various African countries.

Guy G. Hurlbutt

Guy Hurlbutt holds a diverse background, including a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Georgia, a J.D. in law from the University of South Carolina, and an LLM in Environmental Law from George Washington University. His legal career primarily focused on litigation and general business practice.

His professional journey began as a law clerk for the Chief Justice of the United



Guy Hurlbutt

States District Judge J. Robert Martin in the District of South Carolina from 1972 to 1974. Following this, he served as Deputy, later Chief Deputy, Idaho Attorney General under Attorney General Wayne Kidwell from 1975 to 1978. After this, Guy transitioned to private practice by creating the firm Hurlbutt and Payne, Chartered, a general practice firm in Boise. From 1981 to 1984, he held the esteemed position of United States Attorney for the District of Idaho. He then joined Boise Cascade Corporation, initially as an Attorney in the Legal Department (1981-1997), and later advanced to Vice President, Public Policy and Environment for the company (1997-2005).

Beyond his legal career, Guy has accumulated a number of significant achievements and contributions. He served as a First Lieutenant in the Field Artillery, United States Army, with active duty from 1964 to 1966 and in the Active Army Reserves from 1967 to 1970. He was president of Idaho Business for Education from 2005 to 2007. He played a pivotal role as a Founding Board Member and second Chairman of the Board for the College of Western Idaho ("CWI") from 2007 to 2016 and is now recognized as a CWI Trustee Emeritus. His commitment to community is evident through his service on numerous non-profit boards, including the City Club of Boise, Discovery Center

of Idaho, Bishop Kelly High School, the Idaho State Bar Guardian ad Litem Committee, and the federal Civil Justice Reform Committee. He shared his expertise as an Adjunct Professor in the School of Business at Northwest Nazarene University from 2005 to 2012. His dedication to his profession was recognized with the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award in 1996.

He has been married for 55 years to Linda Del Rosso, and they have two grown children, Sara and Lee, and one granddaughter, Katie. He considers one of the most impactful experiences of his life, second only to his marriage, to be his time as a Forest Service Smokejumper, beginning in 1962. He was stationed in McCall, Idaho City, and the Boise Airport, concluding his service in 1970. During this period, he completed 51 Forest Service jumps into Idaho's backcountry. This experience ultimately led to his decision to make Idaho his permanent home, a choice he has never regretted.

Loren C. Ipsen

A life-long Idahoan, Loren was born in Soda Springs and grew up in Montpelier, Idaho. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1972 and obtained his law degree in 1975 from Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. He began the practice of law in Idaho for the firm of Moffatt, Thomas, Barrett & Blanton the same year. In 1992 he joined the firm of Ellsworth, Ipsen & Perry and was a member of various iterations of that firm until 2001 when he joined Elam & Burke. He retired from Elam & Burke in 2024.

Loren's practice was concentrated in the areas of wills and trusts, estate planning, probate, real estate, commercial litigation, ERISA, and (most satisfyingly) professional liability defense. He gratefully acknowledges the many valuable lessons he learned from such colleagues as J. Charles Blanton, and later Allyn Dingel and Carl Burke.



He is married to Shron Ipsen, and they are the proud parents of three children, Crystal, Jill, and Sky. Crystal is a licensed counselor, Jill is an attorney for the U.S. Air Force stationed at Mountain Home Air Force Base; and Sky is employed by the law firm of Ludwig, Shoufler, Miller & Johnson in Boise.

Bill B. Isley

Bill Isley went to the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1975. During his first year he learned what an option to purchase meant and how to use it to buy real estate. During spring break, he traveled down to Salmon, Idaho and optioned 40 acres on Tower Creek, developed it and sold it that summer. He's been doing the same thing ever since.

He liked law school and always thought it was his best decision to attend. He highly recommends it. Bill only practiced for two years and proudly paid his dues for 50 years and intends on paying them for the next 50 years. It connects him to that part of his life.

Ron Kerl

Ron Kerl grew up in Priest River and was the first member of his family to get a college degree, so his graduation from the University of Idaho College of Law was a proud moment for him and his family. Ron is particularly grateful for the support of his wife, Kathy, who worked hard to keep bread on the table and his feet on the ground while he finished his degrees.

Jim Green, Clark Gasser, and Archive Service of Pocatello took a chance on hiring Ron after graduation and he became Partner of the firm a few years later.



His early practice developed in large part because of their collective mentorship and guidance. Ron received the Professionalism Award from both the Idaho State Bar ("ISB") and the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section and he attributes those honors to the way Jim, Clark, and Archie coached him on the "right" way to practice this profession.

Ron's early practice comprised of insurance defense litigation and the representation of the Union Pacific Railroad in FELA and tort litigation. When his law partner, Jim Pappas, became a Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Idaho, Ron took on the firm's creditor bankruptcy practice. For the past 30 years, Ron's practice has revolved around bankruptcy and commercial litigation and a transactional practice preparing agreements for a wide variety of business and real estate transactions.

Ron and Kathy are proud parents of three daughters, none of whom wanted to be lawyers, but all of whom are independent and thoughtful citizens who respect the rule of law. Ron lives in an area of Idaho where his entire family can regularly enjoy the beauty of Idaho's mountains and streams—by skiing, rafting, and camping.

He has been fortunate to serve as an officer in his local bar association, the Portneuf Inns of Court, and as a Commissioner and President of the Idaho State Bar. Ron has served on many ISB committees, including the Bar Examination, Bar Discipline, and Long-Range Planning Committees. He was selected by the Federal Judiciary to serve as a Lawyer Representative for the District of Idaho, where he served for three years on various panels and committees dedicated to the furtherment of judicial independence and competence. In each position he was fortunate to work with and learn from Idaho's best and brightest lawyers and judges. Serving in these volunteer positions was very rewarding.

Ron is excited to be celebrating this milestone with his longtime friend and colleague, Gary Cooper. Gary and Ron met as undergraduates at the University of Idaho and were in the same law school class at the College of Law. They were study mates



(along with another longtime friend, Hon. Hank Boomer) and after being admitted to the Bar, Gary, Hank and Ron were able to practice law with and against each other, learning from each other in their practices, just as they did as law school study mates.

Jay A. Kohler

Since 1984, Jay Kohler's office has conveniently been located across the street from the Bonneville County Courthouse. He is 77 and still works part time. When he is asked about full retirement, his response is that it will be no later than the first time he gets lost crossing the street going to or returning from the courthouse.

Jay graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. His practice began in Montpelier, where he had private practice and served three terms as Bear Lake County attorney. While there, a friend, Dean Rowsell, and Jay organized the First Idaho Title Co. They soon acquired their competitors, Southeast Title and Bear Lake Title, and enjoyed a monopoly for many years. He has practiced in Idaho Falls since 1984. Jay shared the Bonneville County Public Defender's contract with Stephen Hart and Ronald Hart (not related) for a number of years. Following that, Jay continued to enjoy private practice with no specializations with the exception of possibly bankruptcy and real estate. He and Stephen Hart have shared the same office space and staff for the past 41 years. It has been a mutually beneficial and pleasant association. He has had no precedent setting or famous cases—mostly just helped average people every day in trying to solve their legal problems. Jay has always enjoyed being a lawyer (with a few exceptions, of course) and still enjoys being a lawyer.

Outside of practicing law, his interests have been in family (a lovely wife of 52 years, five children, 15 grandchildren and one great grandchild), farming, aviation and, of late, playing guitar music (with You Tube as his backup band) for his contemporaries attending senior citizen events and finishing out their twilight years at retirement homes and assisted living places—very gracious and forgiving audiences.

Russell G. Kvanvig

Russell Kvanvig graduated from law school at the University of North Dakota School of Law. His career has been in the areas of Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Administration, Real Estate, and Family LLC's, Partnerships and Corporations.

Some notable achievements include being and Idaho Bar Commissioner from 2002 – 2005, Idaho State Bar President in 2005, Fifth District Bar Association Professionalism Award in 2006, and American Academy of Attorneys CPAs.

He has done community service during his career in the Twin Falls and Magic Valley areas.

Russell has been married to the love of his life, Geri, for 44 years. He has a son Travis, and some children no longer living, Tom, daughter in law, Stacey, and grandson Daniel. He also has two granddaughters, Macyn and Piper.

William L. Mauk

Bill Mauk was born and raised in Pocatello. Prior to law school he received a B.A. from the University of Southern California and a master's degree from Columbia University.

He was a member of the founding class at the Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C., a clinical-based program where a third of his credits were handling real cases for real clients under faculty supervision. His clinic experience included briefing an appeal to the D.C. Court of Appeals, arguing an appeal before the National Board of Veterans Affairs, and defending 12 criminal misdemeanor cases. In 1975, he married his Antioch classmate, Susan, passed the Idaho Bar Exam, and started his legal



career as a law clerk for the Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, Allan Shepard.

Throughout his 50 years of practice, Bill has always been a trial lawyer, practicing in a succession of small litigation firms, predominately representing civil plaintiffs and criminal defendants. The broad spectrum of his trial practice includes cases in the areas of wrongful discharge, unlawful discrimination, civil rights, worker compensation, personal injury, wrongful death, professional malpractice, water law, breach of contract, lender liability, patent infringement, Indian law and criminal homicide defense. He has litigated controversies in all seven Idaho judicial districts, the U.S. District Courts in Idaho, Wisconsin, and Iowa, and participated in some forty appeals to the Idaho Supreme Court, Idaho Court of Appeals and U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mixed in with his litigation practice, Bill served part-time as an Associate Judge for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribal Court at Ft. Hall, as General Counsel for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes in Duck Valley, as legal counsel for the Professional Firefighters of Idaho and several building trade unions, as Manager of the Idaho Special Indemnity Fund and as a Visiting Professor teaching employment law at the University of Idaho College of Law.

Bill is perhaps most broadly known throughout the Idaho legal community and beyond for his representation of Claude Lafayette Dallas Jr. together with his then-partners. After a very public trial extending almost two months, Dallas was acquitted of the murders of two Idaho Fish and Game Officers in a gun battle reminiscent of an Old Western in a remote corner of Owyhee County—but found guilty on two counts of manslaughter. The *Dallas* case was selected by *the Advocate* as one of the ten most notorious Idaho trials of the Twentieth Century. But no single case, client, victory or loss can define Bill's extensive career.

Perhaps his fondest professional memory was in 2002 when Bill suspended his practice for six months and moved to New York City to help launch the largest lawyer pro bono project in the history of

U.S. jurisprudence, Trial Lawyers Care (“TLC”). TLC was created by the Association of Trial Lawyers of American (“ATLA”) to provide free legal services to the families of those injured and killed in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Flight 93, pursuing claims for tort-like damages from the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund established by Congress. As Director of Litigation Support, Bill selected and helped prosecute the lead claims for compensation and trained other volunteer lawyers who eventually provided legal counsel to over 4,000 claimants.

During his years of practice, Bill has served as President of the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association (“ITLA”), Chair of Access to Justice Idaho, on the Idaho Governor’s Advisory Committee on Workers’ Compensation, and on the governing boards of ATLA, ITLA, Idaho Legal Aid Services, and the Idaho Conservation League. He has been honored by his colleagues with cherished awards, including the Distinguished Service Award from ATLA, the ITLA Lawyer of the Year Award, the Thurgood Marshall Award from Idaho ACLU, and the Distinguished Lawyer Award from the Idaho State Bar.

Bill identifies having an understanding lawyer/therapist spouse as the most satisfying feature of his legal career. Susan practiced as a Deputy Attorney General and in private practice for years, followed by a flourishing second career as a licensed professional counselor. Bill and Susan celebrated 50 years of marriage this year with fond memories of their rafting trips on the Salmon River and travels to 38 countries on 6 continents. They have two sons—one a licensed professional counselor who manages two mental health clinics and the younger a registered hospital nurse—and three inspiring grandchildren.

Marc M. McGregor

Marc recognizes the accomplishment of 50 years is staying alive this long while continuing to maintain a license to practice law. He sometimes thinks of himself as a farm boy who went to law school.

Marc graduated from law school from the University of Idaho College of Law and after taking the Idaho bar exam 50 years ago this summer, he moved to Boise and was able to land a job with an insurance defense firm. After a few years, he moved to north Idaho to manage a legal aid office and, as a colleague put it, “repair his karma.” That practice required plumbing the depths of administrative law. He later became a solo practitioner.

Marc became a member of the “Class of ‘82,” when energy conservationists were elected to the boards of electric co-ops and public utility districts in the wake of four failed WPPSS nuclear power plants. He served on the boards and advisory committees of environmental organizations and also served on a planning and zoning commission of a small town when it adopted an innovative subdivision and zoning plan and code which included protection of the small lake it surrounded, its aquatic commons.

After 15 years of practice, he went back to law school to obtain an LL.M. in environmental law. Upon returning home, Marc found that the most likely avenue to protect the interests of his clients was found in zoning law. This led to maintaining an office in Blaine County representing a smart growth group in a pilot project for three years while continuing his practice in Kootenai County. Marc continues to practice on a limited basis and serves on the obligatory HOA board.

Robert C. Mitchell

Robert Mitchell went to the University of Chicago Law School. Robert and his wife Sharon live in Boise.

Robert C. Montgomery

Robert Montgomery is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law. He and his wife, Debora, reside in Boise.

Joseph L. Parkinson

Joe Parkinson spent his youth along the Snake River, graduating from Blackfoot High School, followed by timber over the

summers to pay for college at Columbia University. During law school at Tulane Law School, Joe worked at the New Orleans law firm of Phelps, Dunbar, Marks, Claverie & Sims, and he taught five levels of math and coached a couple of basketball teams at a high school at Donaldsonville in the Cajun country of Louisiana.

Upon graduation, Joe passed the bar exam in Louisiana and taught at Tulane and New York University School of Law Graduate Tax Program, plus consulting at the New York City law firm Baker & McKenzie. When his wife got pregnant and outvoted him, they moved to Boise in 1975. After a few years of law practice focused on tax, business, and tax-exempt financings for hospitals, in 1978 he joined his twin brother, Ward Parkinson, and a couple of semiconductor engineers, Doug Pitman and Dennis Wilson, to found Micron Technology, Inc. For six years Joe worked at the law firm of Parkinson, Lojek & Penland with a sideline night job as President of Micron. When Micron went public in 1984, he resigned from the law firm and soon became Chairman and CEO of Micron. After his career at Micron, he served as Chairman and CEO of 8x8, Inc. in Santa Clara for a couple of years. Then he retired to his cattle ranch in Grand View and taught a class at the



Joe Parkinson in Inc. Magazine, 1988.

Micron Business and Economics Building on the BSU campus.

He served on the boards of numerous charities and state agencies, including Tulane University, Idaho State Board of Education, Boise State University Foundation, Idaho Health Facilities Authority, Idaho Planned Parenthood, and Boise Philharmonic.

His practice of law contributed to Micron. The early investors and board members were clients, and revenue from the law firm helped fund Micron's early days. What he learned in litigation and tax was invaluable. He enjoyed teaching tax law and practicing law because of his association with students, colleagues, partners, and clients who continue to be among his best friends.

Larry E. Prince

Larry Prince graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of Law. His practice has primarily consisted of representing creditors in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy cases, representing financial institutions in negotiating, documenting and enforcing credit facilities and representing WinCo Foods.

Larry has had some notable moments in his career, including getting inducted into the American College of Bankruptcy (one of six attorneys in Idaho to have ever been

selected), member of the WinCo Holdings, Inc. Board of Directors and WinCo Foods, LLC Board of Manager, founding member and first chair of the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy section of the Idaho State Bar, a member of the Board of Governors and two-time chair of the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy section, founding member and Treasurer of the Federal Bar Association, Idaho chapter, chair of the Local Rules Committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Idaho, recognized in numerous legal publications including Chambers & Partners, Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers, recognized by the international firm of Chambers & Partners as a "Star Individual" which was given to lawyers with exceptional reviews in their field of practice, and involvement in numerous community service organizations and was inducted into the Borah High School Football Hall of Fame.

Larry has been married to his wife, Julie, for 53 years. They have two children, Jason and Stephanie, and four grandchildren. They enjoy traveling, spending time in McCall and attending their grandchildren's many activities. He is often asked whether there is life after the practice of law to which he replies that with all the things we are doing now I am surprised I had time to practice law.

In 1985, Larry represented the senior management of what was then called

Waremart, Inc. in their successful takeover of the company. As part of the takeover the employees became the owners of the company. After the takeover Larry represented the company, which changed its name to WinCo Foods, in all aspects of its business. WinCo has grown from a small grocery operation to a multibillion-dollar company with stores throughout the west. Its success is evidenced by long-term check stand clerks being able to retire as millionaires. He is proud of the small part he played in WinCo's success and has transitioned from representing WinCo to being on its board of directors and board of managers.

Larry was a law clerk, then an associate and finally a partner of essentially one law firm for his entire legal career. He actually appeared in Court as a lawyer before he was sworn in (but after he had passed the bar). There was an emergency Bankruptcy Court hearing in Coeur d'Alene and John Ward, the lawyer in the office who was handling the case, could not attend it. He called Judge Young and explained his unavailability and asked if Larry could appear. Judge Young graciously agreed that Larry could appear and off he went to northern Idaho to bumble his way through the hearing. He trusts that any statute of limitations has run.

Larry has had many mentors over the years of practice. John Ward, Walt Bithell and Judge Merlin Young stand out in particular and he thanks each of them. He also thanks his wife Julie for her unwavering support over the years, as well as the administrative assistants and support staff (you know who you are) with whom he worked.

Phillip J. Rassier

Phillip Rassier was born in Williston, North Dakota. He is the youngest of three siblings raised in the small village of Hanks located 40 miles northwest of Williston.

The family farm was another three miles north in Fertile Valley Township known for



Larry and Julie Prince with their family.

raising fine grain crops in good years, and an abundant supply of rocks every year.

Summers were spent accompanying his father on the farm serving as the “right hand man” from a very early age. He enjoyed the farm but sensed that being a farmer was not the right choice. When asked about his future career plans his father would say “he’s going to be a doctor or a lawyer.” His father suffered a heart attack in the summer of his 12th birthday and that is when his family decided to rent out the farm and move to Hayden, Idaho. The house had a small amount of acreage with the Avondale Irrigation Project, and we experienced the wonders of irrigated agriculture. Their management plan for irrigation back in Montana was to pray for rain. Which they did frequently, often to no avail. These early life lessons left a lasting impression which helped in guiding him toward a career involving the management of use of Idaho’s abundant water resources.

Phillip went from a two-room elementary school to eventually earning his B.S. degree in psychology from the University of Idaho in 1970, and a J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1975. From 1976 to 2010 he was employed by the Office of the Idaho Attorney General in its Natural Resources Division. He represented the Idaho Department of Water Resources throughout most of his career. He supervised the Water Resource section within the Natural Resources Division for twenty-five years before retirement in 2010. Over his career he served under six different Attorneys General and represented six different directors of the Idaho Department of Water Resources before Idaho courts. From 2010 to present he has served as a project advisor for Idaho Water Engineering LLC in Boise.

Throughout his legal career, Phillip enjoyed the experience of working and interacting with a broad array of attorneys, other professionals, legislators, water users, and concerned citizens on issues related to water use and management. At the height of the Snake River Basic Adjudication, the legal section the Department had a staff consisting of nine attorneys and paralegals. Other legal staff from the Natural

Resources Division of the Attorney General’s Office also provided a high level of support and supervision necessary for representation of the State of Idaho in the adjudication proceedings. He is particularly appreciative of the many bright and resourceful attorneys and paralegals who contributed their talents and hard work toward helping the department and the Attorney General’s Office satisfy their legal responsibilities in water management and water rights adjudication proceedings. These individuals have continued to further distinguish themselves in their legal careers whether in private practice, on the bench, or in public service positions.

He is of course thankful to his father for planting seeds in his head so that if he couldn’t grow up to be a farmer he could at least be a lawyer.

Hon. Richard M. Redman

Judge Richard Redman is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Law. He resided in Twin Falls.

Hon. George R. Reinhardt III

Judge George R. Reinhardt III earned his J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1975. Shortly thereafter, he became

the youngest magistrate and youngest district judge in the state, serving the Second Judicial District, which encompasses Idaho, Lewis, and Clearwater counties.

During his 25-year tenure on the bench, Judge Reinhardt presided over a wide range of cases including the landmark Rapid River case, which upheld the Nez Perce Tribe’s treaty-protected fishing rights; four capital cases; and several prominent appointments with the Idaho Supreme Court. Beyond the courtroom, he was instrumental in establishing the region’s drug court. He also chaired the Second Judicial District Magistrate Commission and contributed to the Idaho Supreme Court through service on committees such as the Evidence Rules Advisory Committee and the Death Penalty Counsel Review and Recommendation Committee. In recognition of his work on the bench, he was honored with the George G. Granata Jr. Professionalism Award by the Idaho Judiciary.

Following his retirement, he remained active as a senior district judge and mediator, often choosing assignments based on proximity to his children. A devoted outdoorsman, he continues to enjoy hunting, fishing, and white-water rafting. He has been married for 53 years to his wife, Janice, who is a retired third-grade



George and Janice rafting on the lower Salmon river outside of Grangeville with their grandchildren.

teacher. Together, they enjoy their home in Boise near their children and six grandchildren.

Stephen C. Rice

Stephen Rice, born on October 22, 1945, in Council, Idaho, is a distinguished individual with a notable career in law and a strong commitment to his community. He graduated as Valedictorian from Salmon River High School in 1962, where he also excelled in athletics, becoming the Idaho State Shot-put and Discus Champion the same year.

He continued his education at Idaho State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in education in 1969. Following his graduation, he taught at the Weber Basin Job Corp Center in 1969. That same year, he married Julie Roberts. From 1969 to 1972, he served in the U.S. Army JAG Corps.

Mr. Rice went on to earn his Juris Doctor from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1975, after which he established a general law practice in Lewiston, which he maintained from 1975 until his retirement in 2009. He was a devoted father to three sons, Jeff Rice, a high school teacher and football coach, Brad Rice, a senior financial advisor, and Mark Rice, a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He also has nine grandchildren.

Throughout his career, Stephen C. Rice was actively involved in the legal community and various organizations. He served on and presided over the Idaho State Bar Commission and the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association Board of Governors. He was also a board member for the Idaho Youth Ranch and the Wheatlands Volunteer Fire District. His contributions to the legal profession were recognized with the Idaho State Bar Professionalism Award and the Idaho State Bar Pro Bono Award. Additionally, he was instrumental in the creation of the Jack O'Connor Hunting Heritage and Education Center.



David R. Risley

David Risley was born in Cusick, Washington in 1950 and moved to Coeur d'Alene in 1959. He was the first member of his family to graduate from college.

David chose law school at the University of Idaho College of Law ("U of I") because he wanted to be in Idaho for the hunting and fishing and thought he might have a better chance of getting a job if he graduated from U of I.

His path from law school began in St. Anthony, just in time for the Teton Dam disaster and then to Lewiston in the Lewis Clark Valley where he has enjoyed a general practice since 1976. In 1980, David joined a law firm whose partners were Russ Randall, John Bengston, and Steve Cox. He will always be grateful for the lessons learned from those fine attorneys.

Like many young lawyers, David began as a deputy prosecutor, then moved to Randall Bengston and Cox when they needed a litigation attorney. David started a solo practice in 2010 which he continues to this day. The 1980's brought a wave of foreclosures and bankruptcies, especially in the farming community that kept him busy for a good part of that decade. Along the way, he had the occasional colorful divorce, highly contested probates, one



David Risley in Egypt in 2022.

multi state cattle rustling case, and cases that turned on handwritten notes from General Land Office surveys conducted in the 1800's.

David enjoyed teaching opportunities, including at U of I for a semester as a visiting professor and at the Lewis Clark State College paralegal program as well as CLE presentations for the Idaho State Bar.

David was honored and humbled when he received the Professionalism Award for the Second Judicial District in 2010.

Affordable housing has been a concern of David's, and he has worked with the formation of the Habitat for Humanity chapter in the Lewis Clark Valley, owned affordable housing, and has worked for the Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority for the last several years.

David has served as a judge for the Nez Perce Tribe and is now a Superior Court Commissioner in Asotin, Washington. He has greatly reduced his practice over the last several years. Many clients have become treasured friends, and he misses their company and appreciates even more in retrospect the confidence they have shown him.

Since winding down his practice, David has enjoyed more time with his family and relished wonderful travels in the past few years from Egypt to Iceland, Istanbul and more. Next year, he will travel to China and Australia. David's 94-year-old mother and his wife continue to challenge him intellectually. David's sons both live in Lewiston and he has been blessed with two grandsons who challenge him to keep up with them. His wife's son and children bring love and laughter into his life.

The near future involves part-time work as a Court Commissioner and more time with loved ones, friends, and travel.

John E. Robertson

John Robertson is a graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law. He and his wife, Roberta, reside in Twin Falls.

David K. Robinson

David Robinson's career began with his undergraduate studies at the University of California at Berkeley, where he



Rob in his surfing days.

graduated in 1969. That same year, he joined the California Army National Guard (“CAARNG”). In 1970, he entered the University of Utah Law School, graduating in 1973. During his time there, he was a member of the 144th Evacuation Hospital, Utah Army National Guard (“UTARNG”).

After law school, he served as a law clerk in Pasadena and Glendale, California, for two years, rejoining the CAARNG and continuing to work in civilian hospital emergency rooms. In 1975, he moved to Moscow, to take the bar review course. Upon passing the bar exam, he joined the law firm of Benoit and Alexander (now Benoit, Alexander and Harwood) in Twin Falls. His primary focus there was insurance defense, and he was heavily involved in the significant Sunshine Mine case.

In the fall of 1976, he accepted a position as Deputy Attorney General for the State of Idaho under then-Attorney General Wayne Kidwell. In the fall of 1980, he transitioned to private practice, partnering with Eugene (Gene) Marano to form Marano and Robinson. This partnership continued until 1985. He continued his legal career as a solo practitioner,

primarily serving the five northern counties of Idaho’s First Judicial District for the remainder of his active career. He practiced both as a lawyer and as a mediator, believing he was the third licensed or certified mediator in North Idaho, following Sue Flammia and Heidi Fisher. His general practice encompassed a wide range of areas, including family law, plaintiff’s personal injury, worker’s compensation, criminal defense, juvenile law, business, collections, estate work, and litigation. He increasingly focused on mediation, which he found particularly enjoyable. He retired about nine to ten years ago and has since maintained Senior Inactive Status.

He achieved notable successes across the various areas of his practice. While he refrains from “crowing about” specific accomplishments, he emphasizes his deep satisfaction in assisting clients through their legal concerns and finding resolutions. He credits mediation as an especially effective method for achieving settlements and was a strong advocate for it. Throughout his practice, he felt fortunate to work with an excellent judiciary in North Idaho, and he respected and enjoyed practicing and litigating before them when settlements

were not possible. He comes from a legal family; his father, David Robinson (Sr.), was a renowned and highly respected California lawyer who served as president of the California Bar Association, president of the Western States Bar Association, a member of the College of Trial Lawyers, and on the ABA Board of Governors. He humbly describes himself as “just a small-town lawyer in a state he loves dearly!”

David has been married to his wife, Linda, for 48 years. They share a deep love for the outdoors, flyfishing, bird hunting, and just about anything else you can think of that involves being outside. David was a surfer most of his life but has recently taken to boogie boarding. They have two children, Trevor and Sarah. Trevor is a probation officer in Wyoming with his wife Chelsea, and they have a son, Dash. Sarah is a nurse for the Department of Defense, her husband Lennin, and they have two children.

William F. Sims

William Sims graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law. William and his wife Vicky live in Hayden, Idaho.



Rob and Linda with family at son’s house south of Jackson, WY.



Jordan and Mary.

Jordan P. Smith

Jordan P. Smith received his undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Idaho, attended George Washington University, and received his juris doctorate from the University of Idaho College of Law. Upon graduation, he worked for the Idaho Attorney General's Office under Wayne Kidwell for one year before moving home to Salmon where he operated as a sole practitioner for 32 years before retiring to the family ranch in 2008. During this time, he served as Salmon City Attorney, Lemhi County Prosecuting Attorney, as a member on the Boards of Directors for the Idaho Community Foundation and the Mountain States Savings Bank, on the Professional Conduct Committee for the Idaho State Bar, and with many civic organizations.

Jordan's greatest pride is a marriage of 56 years. He and Mary met during their undergraduate years in Moscow and enjoyed every minute together. They are very proud of their three daughters and their three very active sons.

Richard F. Smith

Richard Smith graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. Richard and his wife Jill live in Rexburg, Idaho.

Murray J. Sorensen

Murray "Jim" Sorensen was born and raised in Blackfoot, and graduated from Blackfoot High School. He graduated from Brigham Young University in 1975 after serving a mission for his church. Jim married his lovely wife, Gay Grimshaw, at the end of his second year of law school. He finished law school and returned to Blackfoot with his pregnant wife. Jim and Gay had five boys (one deceased) within 10 years. He has 15 grandchildren. Family is a major part of his life.

He settled in as Deputy Prosecutor of Bingham County, in a little office on Pine Street where he read paperbacks and waited for the phone to ring. It wasn't long before he was involved in a two-week-long first-degree murder trial. The perpetrator was found guilty. After that trial, Judge Arnold Beebe took Jim into his chambers and said he had been in Blackfoot for his entire legal career and had not seen a jury convict on a first-degree case. Jim was off and running as prosecutor.



Jim Sorensen.

After a couple of years, Jim partnered with Steve Blaser in the firm Blaser & Sorensen; they practiced together for 20 plus years. Over that time, Jim was City Attorney for Blackfoot and other surrounding small towns. Jim's had a lot to do with the legal work in Blackfoot as a small-town attorney; criminal, bankruptcy, business, divorce, estate planning, adoptions, and most everything else you can imagine. He represented the Eastern Idaho State Fair, various banks, and a lot of people and had the opportunity to do some amazing things.

Jim and his wife have traveled all over the world with eight trips to Turkey, five trips to Africa—where he had the opportunity to hunt a lot of animals—New Zealand, Mexico, Canada, and lots of other places as well. Now they try to spend time in their home in St. George, Utah. They own a 60-room assisted living center in Ammon, and employ over 50 people.

Jim's legal career has slowed down, and he doesn't do any courtroom work, if he can avoid it. Jim has enjoyed family life and hunting, fishing, scuba diving, and a lot of other outdoor activities. Life and the legal profession have been good to him.

Larry J. Strom

Larry Strom graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. Larry and his wife, Rita, live in Maryland.

Marvin R. Stucki

Marvin "Marv" Stucki was born into a family of eight and learned to work and play hard on a dairy farm in Milo, a few miles north of Idaho Falls. He graduated from Bonneville High School, enjoying sports, music and debate. He attended Utah State and Brigham Young University for his undergraduate education and then Marv graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1975.

After graduation came marriage, starting a family with two stepdaughters, then adding three daughters and a son. This progeny has produced many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Marv began his law practice as a Bonneville County Deputy Prosecutor, and after four

years began a stint as a public defender and began some private practice, as a sole practitioner.

For many years the primary practice was a focus on criminal defense but gradually merged into some personal injury, workers' compensation, divorce and family law, with limited probate of small estates and wills and trusts. For recent years the practice has been primarily high conflict divorce and child custody matters. The practice has always been interesting and entertaining, never lacking variety. The work has often been satisfying and rewarding, especially when it was possible to provide more help and relief than expected. There have been ups and downs and highs and lows, emotionally and financially.

Marv owns his office and a cabin in Island Park, which he loves to spend time at on weekends and holidays. He began his angling career with the tutelage of a great dad and uncles, who taught him to fish coffee pots on Henry's Fork and many other waters, using the garden hackle or salmon eggs. The bait fishing morphed into way too many fly rods, a ton of fly-tying materials, and fishing excursions with family and friends, creating happy memories. Marv's advice don't let the old man in, practice law until it does not serve you, then fish.



Marvin Stucki at Sheridan Lake, Island Park, Idaho on May 24, 2025.

Kevin F. Trainor

Kevin Trainor graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. Kevin and his wife Linda live in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Jesse C. Trentadue

Jesse Trentadue and his wife, Rita Reusch, were classmates at the University of Idaho College of Law. They were married the day before their graduation. They are still married, which many of their law school friends may find hard to believe. Following law school, Jesse served a two-year clerkship with Chief Judge Ray McNichols on the United States District Court for the District of Idaho. Since then, other than a few years as a law professor, he has been a civil trial lawyer with his last trial being a three-week wrongful death case tried this past April. Following law school, Rita served a two-year clerkship with Idaho Supreme Court Justice Robert E. Bakes and went on to a career in academia, retiring from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law.

Rita and Jesse have two children. Their daughter, Anna Ruth Trentadue, is also a member of the Idaho State Bar. She practices land use and property law in Teton County, Idaho where she lives with



Jesse Trentadue with his wife, Rita.

their two grandchildren Frank Church Cheney and Jesse Payette Cheney. Their son, Jesse Marshall, lives in Los Angeles where he works as Creative Director (*i.e.* advertising) for Hourglass Cosmetics. Rita and Jesse have lived in Holladay, Utah for almost 40 years.

Steven A. Tuft

After graduation from the University of Utah S. J. Quinney School of Law in 1974, Steven Tuft started his legal career in Salt Lake City with Clyde & Pratt. In 1975, Tom Church (his BYU roommate's father) invited him to come to Burley to "help out." He thought living in a small town would be novel, since he grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. He and his wife, Susan, decided to give it a try. They cautioned Tom and his other partners, Kent Church and Pete Snow, that they would only stay a few years, as they were confident that they wouldn't really be happy in a small town. It didn't take long to discover that life in rural southern Idaho would be just fine—in fact it was really what Steven and Susan were looking for and didn't know it at the time.

Steven's career in Idaho started with Church, Church & Snow. He later joined Goodman & Duff in Rupert, then back to Burley with Steve Bywater. After that he left for the Attorney General's office, where he office-shared with Al Barrus until his retirement from private practice in 2013. He had a typical smaller town practice, trending in later years toward business and estate planning. Steven served as Heyburn's part-time city attorney for 40 years.

In 2005, Steven was honored with the Idaho State Bar's Professionalism and Service awards, and in 2010 the Idaho Municipal Attorney Association's "Pillar of the Community" award. He graded bar exams for several years and served on several Bar committees. From 2009 to 2015, he was a member of the Idaho Judicial Council.

Susan and Steven have five children and 14 grandchildren. They both enjoy



Steven and Susan.

serving in volunteer community and church service activities. In retirement the focus is on travel, grandchildren, and serving as volunteers in the Twin Falls Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Jean R. Uranga

Born in West Point, New York, Jean Rynd Uranga grew up in Bremerton, Washington, graduating from East High School in 1967. Defying the norm for women at the time, she pursued higher education, attending Olympic Junior College before transferring to Western Washington State College. She graduated *cum laude* in 1971 with a bachelor's in education, majoring in sociology-anthropology and minoring in elementary education.

A spontaneous decision to take the LSAT, initially on a dare, led Uranga to law. She excelled on the exam and subsequently enrolled at Willamette University College of Law in 1972, one of only about 10 women in her class. There, she met and later married Louis Uranga. She was highly engaged in law school activities, including the Moot Court Board and various committees, and earned several scholarships.

After graduating in 1975, Uranga moved to Boise, starting her career as a Deputy Attorney General in the Consumer Protection/Business Regulation Division. She also represented the Idaho State Board of Medicine. In 1980, she co-founded the firm Uranga & Uranga with her husband, specializing in domestic relations, mediation, and administrative law. She has served as a Hearing Officer in nearly 400 cases and mediated over 550.



Jean and Louie Uranga.

Uranga has an extensive history of service to the legal community. She volunteered with Bar Exam grading for 13 years and contributed to numerous Bar activities and committees. In 1987, she received the Service Award from the Idaho State Bar. From 1990 to 1993, she served on the Idaho State Bar's Board of Commissioners, becoming the second woman to hold the title of President of the Idaho State Bar in 1992. In 2001, she became the first woman to preside over both the Idaho State Bar and the Idaho Law Foundation. In recognition of her dedication, the Idaho State Bar honored her with its Professionalism Award in 2003.

Uranga continues to reside and practice law in Boise with her husband. She is a proud mother of two children: her daughter, Maite, is currently in law school, and her son, Mark, is completing medical school.

Louis L. Uranga

Louie Uranga's first job was at the Boise City Attorney's Office. After three years, he went into private practice where he remained until retirement in the Fall of 2015. Jean Rynd Uranga, his wife, was

his law partner for over 35 years and remains his life partner. Chris Bieter was with their office for several years before he moved on to become a judge.

Louie's most notable achievement was having his wife as his law partner for over 35 years and still being married after 50 years. They have two children and four grandchildren that they dote on and who have become the center of their retirement.

Jean and Louie have travelled a lot internationally to every continent except Antarctica, often with their children. He has met his aunt and cousins for the first time while traveling in the Basque Country. His family has white water rafted most of the white-water rivers of Idaho. Both of their children continue to enjoy rafting with their families.

He is a native Idahoan. He graduated from Homedale High School in 1968, College of Idaho in 1972 and Willamette Law School in 1975. He still maintains close ties with his hometown. He put himself through college and law school by smoke jumping, including four years in McCall and two summers in Boise. Smokejumpers are a tightly knit group. Some of Louie's closest friends are old jumpers. In summary, 75 years old, 50 years married and 35 years of law practice with his wife, and he's still upright. Life is good.

Hon. John C. Vehlow

John Vehlow grew up in the state of Texas. He moved to Idaho in 1975, passed the bar exam, and became the first Deputy Attorney General for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Following short stints in private practice and prosecuting, he went to the bench as a Magistrate Judge in Ada County, during 1987 and served full-time and in a senior capacity for about 35 years, primary in juvenile justice.

He started and facilitated the annual Scales of Justice fishing tournament, benefiting kids on juvenile probation in southern Idaho counties from 2004 until 2020. He met his wife, Karen, in the cram course for the 1975 bar exam, and they have been married for 49 years. They



Hon. John and Hon. Karen Vehlow.

have one child Eric, who is now a lawyer practicing in Idaho, their wonderful daughter in law Katrina and three terrific grandkids. John and Karen live on a farm where they raise hay and board horses for other people.

Hon. Karen J. O. Vehlow

Judge Karen Vehlow grew up on a farm in Illinois and went to college and law school in Michigan, graduating from Wayne State University Law School. She moved to Idaho in 1975 after practicing briefly in Michigan, took the bar exam, and became one of the first 50 female lawyers in Idaho since statehood. Karen began her career as a deputy prosecutor in Ada County and was subsequently selected to serve there as a Attorney Magistrate Judge, becoming the first female to serve in that capacity in Ada County.

She married John Vehlow in 1976 and left the bench to raise their son, Eric. Subsequently, Karen worked as a professor for 18 years at Northwest Nazarene University and ultimately returned to the bench as a senior judge.



Garry Wenske on the blue turf.

Michael Wasko

Michael Wasko graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law. Michael and his wife Jeanne live in Nezperce, Idaho.

Garry V. Wenske

Garry Wenske served for 20 years as Executive Director of the Frank Church Institute at Boise State University where he was Adjunct Professor. He also served as the president of the Boise Committee on Foreign Relations and on the Idaho Humanities Council. Currently he serves on the Board of Directors of Global Ties Idaho, and as a community member of the Idaho Statesman Editorial Board.

Previously he served in senior positions in Washington, D.C. on the staff of three Senators, four Congressmen, and two Senate Committees. As Legislative Counsel to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Senator Frank Church, he staffed the enactment of the China Claims Act and coordinated one of first trade delegations to China after U.S. recognition. He also served as Assistant Counsel to the Senate Aging Committee,

and as a Foreign Policy Assistant on Senator Church's staff.

After leaving the Senate, he was a Senior Associate with Senator Church's law firm, Whitman & Ransom, where he represented major international corporate and government clients, including the Republic of China. He received an Eisenhower Fellowship to study in Taiwan.

He also served as counsel on the presidential campaigns of Senator Church and Senator Paul Simon, as counsel to Senator Tim Johnson, and as Chief of Staff to several members of Congress including Congressman Larry LaRocco.

A former foreign service officer in the Department of State, he served in the Bureau of Intelligence and as vice consul in the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia, where he coordinated the visit of the hospital ship U.S.S. HOPE.

Other organizations for which he has worked include the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, where he supervised elections in Bosnia and Kosovo; and the President's Commission on Youth Opportunity chaired by Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

A graduate of Borah High School, the George Washington University's Elliott School of International Relations, and the U.S. Foreign Service Institute, he received a law degree from the University of Idaho, his home State. He is a member of the bars of Idaho and the District of Columbia.

Wenske lives in Boise with his wife, Yvonne McCoy, a retired technical writer and supporter of the arts.

Keith A. Zollinger

Keith Zollinger first started as an intern in 1974 for McDermott and McDermott in Pocatello. He worked as a public defender for the 6th District. He returned in 1975 after being admitted to the Bar. He had a private practice and contracted with the 6th District to

provide Public Defender services on felonies, juvenile and appellate cases. They handled about 1,300 cases per year.

Keith was appointed the District Public Defender and remained until 1989 when he went to full time private practice. He worked with Peter D., Patricia L. McDermott, Hartwell Blake, Gaylen Box, R. Ted Israel, Ron Jarman, Dennis Olley, Doug Balfour, Marshall Aungier, Doug Balfour, and others. Three of them were appointed to the bench in the Sixth District. Keith personally handled five first degree murders. One pled down, three acquittals, and one conviction. He had an active civil practice and continued his criminal practice.

In 1977, Keith married Jann Browning and had three children. He is now retired and spends time in Island Park and



Keith Zollinger in Ecuador where he stopped on the way to Galapagos and Machu Picchu.

traveling the world including Greece, Mexico, South America, Canada, and soon Alaska.

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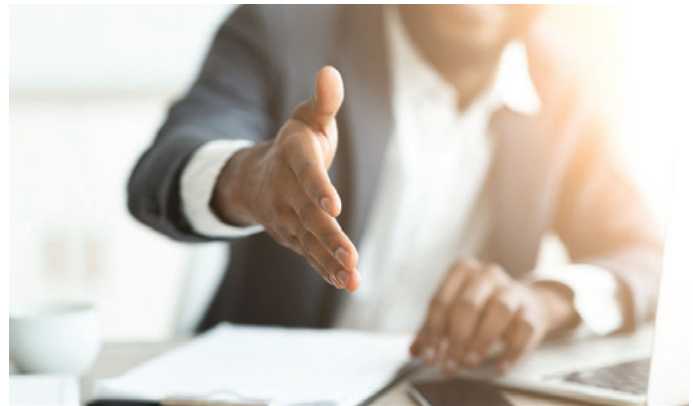


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Additional Awards

Section of the Year Award



The 2025 Section of the Year Award is awarded to the Idaho Legal History Section. This Section has been instrumental in preserving the history of the legal profession and courts in Idaho since the section was founded as a separate organization, the Idaho Legal History Society, in 2005, founded by Judge Lynn Winmill and Judge Ronald Bush along with Byron Johnson, Hon. Ronald J. Wilper, Rita Ryan, Judith Austin, Tom McCabe, Betty Richardson, Russ Heller, and Susie Boring-Headlee. The group discovered that many people have been quietly preserving Idaho's legal history on their own, and many more wanted to be part of the effort.

Their projects over the years are many including an oral history project, and sponsoring several editions of *the Advocate* with many articles touching on subjects involving issues in the law and history.

Most recently they have been instrumental in providing both the seed money and labor from their members—including Judge Debora Grasham, Judge Jessica Lorello, and Lindsey Welfley—to finish and publish *Tents to Towers: The History of the Practice of Law in Idaho*.

The Society became a Section in 2021 and is proud to include both attorney and non-attorney members. We owe them a debt of gratitude for preserving the history of what may seem like everyday occurrences in courthouses across the state.

Workers' Compensation Section Professionalism Award

Emma Wilson received the Workers' Compensation Section Professionalism award for 2025. Emma is the driving force behind Kids' Chance—a program started by the Workers' Compensation section that provides scholarships to children of those seriously or fatally injured on the job. Emma currently serves as the president for Kids' Chance.

Emma began practicing workers' compensation defense since 2009. She



Emma Wilson receive the Workers' Compensation Section Professionalism Award. Photo Credit: Dayna Ferrero.

earned a bachelor's degree in journalism with an emphasis in advertising from the University of Oregon in 2001. Following graduation, she worked as a media planner at R/West advertising in Portland and in 2004 became a media buyer on the Nike account at Wieden + Kennedy in Portland. In 2006 Emma enrolled at the University of Idaho College of Law where she served as a published writer and editor of the Idaho Law Review. She graduated in 2009 and began working at Gardner, Breen & Veltman, where she defended workers' compensation cases throughout all stages of litigation. She is now a partner at Breen Veltman Wilson PLLC.

Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section Professionalism Award

The Idaho State Bar Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section presents its annual Professionalism Award to a member that has shown continual service, professionalism, and leadership within the



Emma Wilson (center) with the attorneys in her firm, Susan Veltman (left) and Lora Breen (right). Photo credit: Dayna Ferrero.

bankruptcy bar. The 2025 Professionalism Award was presented to Ron Kerl of Pocatello.

Ron Kerl was raised in Priest River, in North Idaho. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1972 and College of Law in 1975. He is admitted to practice in all Idaho Courts and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He has served as president of the local Sixth District Bar Association (1982), the Idaho State Bar (1994), the Portneuf Inns of court (1996), chaired numerous Idaho State Bar committees (Bar Exam Grading, Professional Conduct, Long Range Planning), and served on Idaho Law Foundations Fund Development committee.

In 2002 he received the Idaho State Bar's Professionalism Award and served as a lawyer representative from 2003 to 2006 for the District of Idaho and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Ron's primary practice areas include commercial litigation, bankruptcy reorganizations under Chapters 11 and 12, and bankruptcy liquidations under Chapter 7, drafting simple to complex commercial and financial agreements, and real estate, including commercial and agricultural acquisitions and sales.

Idaho Military Legal Alliance Awards

The Idaho Military Legal Alliance (“IMLA”) recognized individuals and organizations who have been staples to their pro bono clinic successes for 2025.

Individual Pro Bono Service Award: Celebrating a legal professional whose dedicated volunteerism has significantly advanced veterans’ rights and access to justice was presented to Jamie Shropshire for her dedication to their General Legal Aid Clinic.

Veterans’ Advocacy Award: Acknowledging outstanding financial support and advocacy that have empowered the Idaho Military Legal Alliance to expand its reach and effectiveness. Jeffrey Woodworth received this award on behalf of HP, Inc. Their financial support has allowed IMLA to expand its services and regularly conduct clinics in Boise, Moscow, and Pocatello.

Organizational Pro Bono Service Award: Recognizing a firm or nonprofit that has demonstrated exceptional leadership and impact in delivering pro bono legal services to veterans. Tatum Remely, Kaci Peterson, and Haley West received this award on behalf of Perkins Coie. They have been critical to the Boise Wills Clinic.



IMLA Chair, Jeremy Rausch (left) presents award to Jamie Shropshire.



IMLA Chair, Jeremy Rausch (left) presents award to Jeffrey Woodworth.



IMLA Chair, Jeremy Rausch (right), presents award to Perkins Coie representatives, (from left to right) Kaci Peterson, Haley West, and Tatum Remely.

Retired Judges

Hon. Calvin H. Campbell retired as a district judge from Twin Falls County on June 28, 2024. He graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1992.

Hon. Jill S. Jurries retired as a magistrate judge from Ada County on December 20, 2024. She graduated from Pepperdine University Odell McConnell Law Center and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 2001.

Hon. Jonathan Brody retired as a district judge from Minidoka County on December 31, 2024. He will continue to serve in retirement as a senior judge. He graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1994.

Hon. John T. Mitchell retired as a district judge from Kootenai County on January 3, 2025. He graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1985.

Hon. John C. Judge retired as a district judge from Latah County on January 17, 2025. He graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1984.

Hon. Paul Laggis retired as a magistrate judge from Power County on July 31, 2025. He graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law and was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1992.

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