



## Winter 2017 LTL! Northern Idaho Event

December 6, 2017

### EVENT SUMMARY

**Event Title:** Coeur d'Alene Federal Courthouse Event and Court Observation

**Date & Time:** December 6, 2017 10:15 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

**Location:** Federal Courthouse, 6450 N. Mineral Drive, Coeur d'Alene

**Number of Students:** 25 Students and 2 Chaperones attended.

**Participating Schools:** Lakeland HS, Rathdrum, Idaho

**Participating Judges, Attorneys, and Staff:** Hon. B. Lynn Winmill, Kinzo Mihara, Traci Whelan (AUSA), and Lynette Parson (Deputy Clerk)

#### Summary of Events:

I arrived at Federal Courthouse at approximately 10:00am with pre-purchased sodas, plates, and trash bags and staged them in the jury assembly room. I then coordinated with the U.S. Marshall's court security staff about how they'd like to move the students and chaperones through the courthouse. I then coordinated with Judge Winmill's courtroom deputies about where they'd like the children to sit and if they had any other instructions for the participants.

The Lakeland HS students and chaperones arrived at approximately 10:15 am and were all passed through security. They then moved to the jury assembly room for instruction on proper courtroom etiquette.

The students, chaperone, and Attorney Mihara then moved from the jury assembly room to Judge Winmill's courtroom where they observed a sentencing hearing. The charge was obtaining a controlled substance (opioids) via fraud. The Court heard from the Assistant U.S. Attorney, then the defense attorney, then the defendant herself. The students and chaperone were very respectful and quiet during the entire proceeding.

After the hearing, the pizza arrived and the students, chaperone, and attorney returned to the jury assembly room for discussion of the hearing and interaction with attorneys, judge, and staff.

Judge Winmill joined and discussed his personal and professional background. He stressed the epidemic of opioid addiction and the number of drug cases he presides over. He also discussed his time as a judge in the Idaho State Courts. The students had various questions, a lot of which related to death penalty cases.

The students and chaperones then heard from Traci Whelan, the head AUSA for the Coeur d'Alene Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Idaho. She discussed her personal and professional background. She discussed the impact of social media issues with young people. She also discussed the cases she works on as well as the interaction between the U.S. Attorney's office and federal law enforcement.

Lynette Parson from the U.S. District of Idaho's Clerk's office. She discussed her personal and professional background. Ms. Parson discussed the role of the Clerk's office in facilitating court operations. She then gave the students instruction of the audio/visual capabilities of a federal courtroom in an open courtroom.

Attorney Mihara also discussed his personal and professional background as a civil attorney.

The students and chaperones departed at approximately 1:30pm.

**Participant Profiles:** All participants (no distinction between students and chaperones), filled out LTL! Background Information forms, and Event Evaluations.

#### Demographic Background Information.

Of the participants who completed the background information forms, eight (8) identified as male, ten (10) identified as female, one (1) identified as 'other,' and one (1) identified as transgender. The participants' ages ranged from 14 and under to 16 years old (3 – 14 y/o; 9 – 15 y/o; 8 – 16 y/o). The large majority identified as Caucasian, three (3) identified as Latina, and one (1) identified as Black/African American. Most participants reported English as being their native language, with two (2) stating that English was not their native language. None identified as being disabled. Most participants identified Christianity (with Catholic also being identified) as their religion, one preferred not to answer under the category "other." Of the participants who responded to the question, most identified as heterosexual as their sexual orientation, two (2) identified as LGBT, two (2) responded as "unsure," and a few participants did not respond to the question. The participants' GPA, political ideology, and parental educational levels were reported across the spectrum of choices available.

**Student/Teacher Feedback:** Of those who participated, 19 filled out LTL! Event Evaluations.

#### Event Evaluations.

The event evaluations were overwhelmingly positive. The negative comments were superficial in nature, e.g., "not being able to take pictures," "wanting to see more cases," "only sitting in on one sentencing," etc... Ideas for improving the program included wanting to sit in on a jury trial, and having speakers come to the school to address the students.

Background Information and Event Evaluations have been submitted to the LTL! Chair for filing/reference. I also have copies of these documents and they should be available should anyone request copies from me (Kinzo).

**Costs Associated with Event:**

The Love the Law! Subcommittee authorized \$250.00 for this and the Tribal event. The Tribal event was approximately \$110.00. The Federal Courts authorized up to \$200 and receipts have been submitted to verify the expenditures. Receipts were also submitted and Love the Law! funds were used to pay for the following expenses (Attorney Mihara covered the expenses out of pocket, up-front and has been authorized reimbursement from the ISB – I have received the reimbursement check yesterday):

Expense	Amount
Sodas, plates, paper towels, etc.	\$26.45
Pizza Hut Pizzas	\$130.23
Misc. (Tip and Mileage)	\$38.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$195.14</b>

The Idaho State Bar and Diversity Section allowed for the students and chaperones to attend the event and luncheon for free. Excess food and beverages were donated to the U.S. Attorney and Court Clerk’s offices in appreciation for their support.