

# In the Supreme Court of the State of Idaho

**IN RE: FORMATION AND )  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE MISDEMEANOR )  
SENTENCING COMMITTEE )**

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**ORDER**

The Supreme Court comes now in furtherance of its goal to increase public trust and confidence in Idaho Courts through protecting communities, reducing recidivism, and holding offenders accountable through evidence-based sentencing practices and based upon the model of the Felony Sentencing Committee;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a Misdemeanor Sentencing Committee is formed to accomplish the following:

1. Enhance sentencing options for magistrate judges through review of relevant research on sentencing practices and sentencing alternatives with emphasis on community-based programs;
2. Increase understanding of who is sentenced to probation, how those decisions are made, how long individuals are supervised, who and why probation is revoked, and the implications of all of these;
3. Review and provide recommendations for enhancing information available to judges at sentencing, including information related to criminogenic risk and needs, the availability of behavioral health treatment, and other programing, as well as other sentencing information;
4. Work with the Idaho Association of Counties Misdemeanor Probation Administrators Association to enhance misdemeanor probation services statewide and support evidence-based supervision practices;
5. Serve as a liaison to each judicial district to increase understanding, develop recommendations for judicial education and receive feedback on misdemeanor sentencing practices for new and existing magistrate judges; and
6. Review evidence-based practices for pretrial justice, risk assessment data, conditions of release information, and specific county policies relating to monitoring and reporting criteria to judges in concert with criminal justice stakeholders.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following persons are appointed as voting members of the Misdemeanor Sentencing Committee, to serve until further order of the Court:

Committee Member	Current Term Expiration
Chair: Judge James Cawthon	November 22, 2022
Judge Tyler Smith	November 22, 2023
Judge Michelle Evans	November 22, 2021
Judge James Stow	November 22, 2020
Judge Jennifer Haemmerle	November 22, 2021
Judge Paul Laggis	November 22, 2023
Judge Jason Walker	November 22, 2022

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a team of Idaho court administrative experts, as well as legal counsel, will provide on-going support and guidance to the Misdemeanor Sentencing Committee:

Sara Thomas, Administrative Director of the Idaho Supreme Court  
 Jason Spillman, Legal Counsel  
 Taunya Jones, Director, Justice Services Division  
 Sandy Jones, Manager, Criminal Justice Services  
 Scott Ronan, Senior Manager, Criminal Justice Services  
 Ryan Porter, Senior Manager, Behavioral Health and Quality Assurance

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Misdemeanor Sentencing Committee shall meet regularly and report periodically to magistrate court judges, the Administrative Conference, and the Supreme Court with the results of its work and any recommendations.

DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

By Order of the Supreme Court

*Roger S. Burdick*

Roger S. Burdick, Chief Justice

I, Karel A. Lehrman, Clerk of the Supreme Court/  
 Court of Appeals of the State of Idaho, do hereby  
 certify that the above is a true and correct copy of  
 the Order

entered in the above entitled cause and now on  
 record in my office.

WITNESS my hand and the Seal of this Court 9-12-19

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
 for Clerk