

# The Idaho Court of Appeals

*“Right and Justice . . . Without Delay”*

In order to fulfill the requirement in the Idaho Constitution that state courts administer “right and justice . . . without delay,” the Idaho Court of Appeals was established by statute (Idaho Code sections 1-2401 through 1-2411) in 1980, and the Court received funding to begin operation in January, 1982. The Court of Appeals was created to alleviate significant backlog that had developed within the Supreme Court as the result of rapid population and appellate caseload growth in Idaho during the 1970’s. Fiscal Year 2015 had two significant events: Judge John Melanson was selected as the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals effective January 1, 2015, and Judge Molly Huskey was appointed to replace newly retired Court of Appeals Judge Karen Lansing.

## JUDGE KAREN LANSING RETIRES

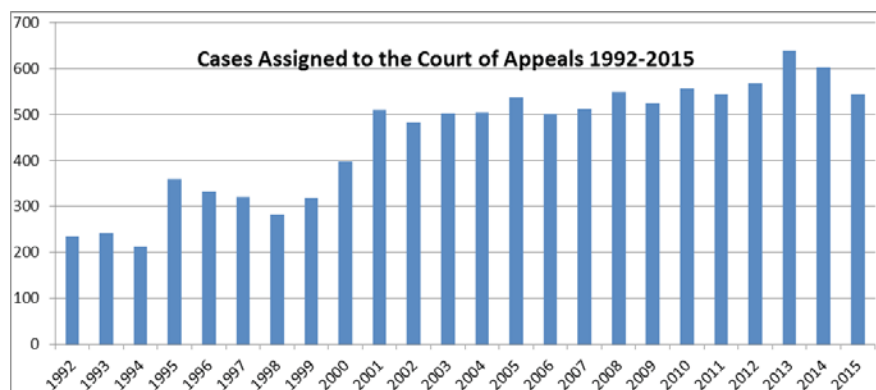
After a 22 year career with the Idaho Court of Appeals, Judge Karen Lansing announced her retirement, effective June 30, 2015. Judge Lansing, a native Idahoan, was the second female judge appointed to serve on the Court of Appeals and for eight years, was the only woman serving on the appellate courts of Idaho. Judge Lansing chaired the Idaho Supreme Court’s Advisory Committee on the Idaho Rules of Evidence, co-chaired the Judicial Recruitment Committee, and served on many committees, including the Idaho Appellate Rules Committee and the Fairness and Equality Committee. She is an emeritus member of the American Inns of Court, Boise Chapter and on the University of Idaho College Of Law Advisory Board. Judge Lansing has served as a regular instructor on evidence law for judicial education programs and has presented numerous lectures on appellate practice for attorneys.

## WELCOME JUDGE MOLLY HUSKEY

Judge Molly Huskey joins the Idaho Court of Appeals after being appointed by Governor Otter on July 2, 2015. She was admitted to the Idaho Bar in 1993. She served as a public defender and as a prosecutor in Bonneville County before joining the newly-created Office of the State Appellate Public Defender (SAPD) in 1998. Judge Huskey became the Chief of the Appellate Unit at the SAPD in 1999, and was appointed as the State Appellate Public Defender in 2002 by Governor Dirk Kempthorne, with the appointment renewed by Governor Otter. She remained in that position until her appointment to the district court bench in 2011 by Governor Otter.

## THE COURT OF APPEALS WORKLOAD CONTINUES

In FY2015 the Idaho Court of Appeals issued 629 opinions (592 criminal and 37 civil).



Report to the Governor  
C.L. “Butch” Otter  
and the  
2nd Regular Session of the  
63rd Idaho Legislature



Idaho Supreme Court  
451 W. State Street  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0101  
208-334-2246  
isc.idaho.gov



## **CHIEF JUDGE JOHN MELANSON**

Judge Melanson is a 1978 graduate of Idaho State University (B.B.A.), and a 1981 graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law (J.D.). He practiced law in Buhl, Idaho, from 1981 through 1994. He received the Idaho State Bar Pro Bono Publico Award in 1994.

In 1995, he was appointed magistrate judge for Lincoln County, a position in which he served until December 2000 when he was appointed district judge for the Fifth Judicial District with chambers in Minidoka County. He was elected to that position in 2002 and reelected 2006.

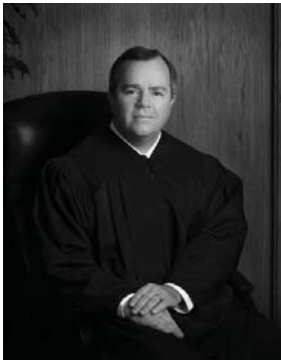
The Idaho Supreme Court appointed him presiding judge of the Snake River Basin Adjudication in 2003. In 2009, he was appointed to the Idaho Court of Appeals by Governor Otter.



## **JUDGE SERGIO GUTIERREZ**

Judge Gutierrez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in Elementary Education from Boise State University and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Hastings Law School.

As a young lawyer, Judge Gutierrez practiced in southwest Idaho. In November of 1993, Governor Cecil D. Andrus appointed him to be Idaho's first Hispanic district judge. He was then twice elected to retain this position by the voters and also served as administrative district judge in the Third Judicial District. Governor Dirk Kempthorne appointed Judge Gutierrez to serve on the Idaho Court of Appeals beginning in January 2002, and he subsequently has been elected to serve two full terms.



## **JUDGE DAVID GRATTON**

Judge Gratton was born and raised in Emmett, Idaho. He attended Boise State University, graduating in 1982 with a B.A. degree in Political Science. Judge Gratton received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Idaho College of Law in 1985.

He served as an intern law clerk for Ninth Circuit Judge J. Blaine Anderson in 1984 and law clerk to United States District Court Judge Harold L. Ryan from 1985 to 1987. Judge Gratton joined the law firm of Evans Keane LLP in 1987, becoming a partner in 1993, until his appointment to the Idaho Court of Appeals in 2009, by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter.



## **JUDGE MOLLY HUSKEY**

Judge Huskey was admitted to the Idaho State Bar in 1993. She served as a public defender and as a prosecutor in Bonneville County before joining the newly-created Office of the State Appellate Public Defender in 1998. She became the chief of the Appellate Unit at the SAPD in 1999, and was appointed as the State Appellate Public Defender in 2002 by Governor Dirk Kempthorne, with the appointment renewed by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter. She remained in that position until her appointment to the district court bench in 2011 by Governor Otter.

For further information, contact Senior Judge Barry Wood  
Email: [bwood@idcourts.net](mailto:bwood@idcourts.net) /// Phone: 208-334-2246

