

2023 Awards



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JUDGE JAMES CAWTHON | GRANATA AWARD



With the George C. Granata Award, the Idaho courts recognize an individual who has gone above and beyond to ensure all Idahoans have access to fair and efficient justice.

Judge Cawthon, a district judge for the Fourth Judicial District, stands out nationally for his work with domestic violence courts, drug courts and, most recently, pretrial justice. He at one time simultaneously presided over drug courts in Ada and Elmore counties. Today, he continues to preside over an Ada County drug court. His passion for drug court is palpable, and the participants who appear before him frequently cite his guiding hand as the reason for their success.

TAUNYA JONES | KRAMER AWARD



The Douglas D. Kramer Award recognizes excellence in judicial administration in Idaho's state courts through demonstrated character and action.

Taunya Jones began working for Idaho's courts in April 2008, recently retiring as the state's Director of Justice Services. During the Judicial Branch's transition to an electronic case management system, she took an expanded role to help define and document court business processes. This allowed for proper configuration of the new system and more effective use by clerks and judges. Jones did this knowing the time pressure and wide scope of the project would mean working into evenings and on weekends. This reflects her commitment to her team and our courts. One of Jones' most outstanding qualities is her principled approach to her job. She strives for her work to tell a true story, without bias or compromise.

SENIOR JUDGE MICHAEL OTHS | LEGACY AWARD



The Magistrate Judges Association's Legacy Award was created to recognize a judge's dedicated leadership and service to their community, colleagues and citizens.

Judge Oths is someone of long-time service to the magistrate division. His contributions include advancements in the law, service to the legal profession and judiciary, dedication and inspiration as a role model for leadership, collegiality, professionalism in advancing a highly qualified judiciary, and work elevating the status and function of the magistrate division. He recently completed a nine-year term as an appointed member of the Ada County Historic Preservation Council, and he's been a crucial supporter of the Access to Justice campaign.

