

# Mission & Values

OF IDAHO'S COURTS

## MISSION

As the third branch of government, we provide access to justice through the timely, fair, and impartial resolution of cases.

## VALUES

Integrity  
Fairness  
Independence  
Respect  
Excellence  
Innovation

## GOALS

- To provide timely, impartial case resolution through legally fair procedures
- Ensure access to justice
- Promote effective, innovative services
- Increase public trust and confidence in Idaho courts

thing to be seized.

Sec. 18. Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and a speedy affording for every injury, person, property or character right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, or prejudice.



# Idaho Court

## STRUCTURE



### Idaho Supreme Court

*Five Justices, led by Chief Justice*

May issue certain writs and reviews decisions of the district courts, reapportionment plans, and orders of the Public Utility Commission and Industrial Accident Board.



### Court of Appeals

*Four Judges*

Four judges sitting in panels of three hear appellate cases as assigned by the Supreme Court.



### District Courts

*51 District Judges, serving 44 counties*

Hear felony cases, civil cases (>\$10,000) and appeals from magistrate courts.



### Treatment Courts

Courts led by magistrate or district judges that use a collaborative approach to provide accountability and treatment to Idahoans with behavioral health issues.



### Magistrate Division

*103 Magistrate Judges across Idaho*

Hear probate, divorce and custody, juvenile, child abuse and neglect, traffic, and misdemeanor proceedings as well as civil cases (<\$10,000).



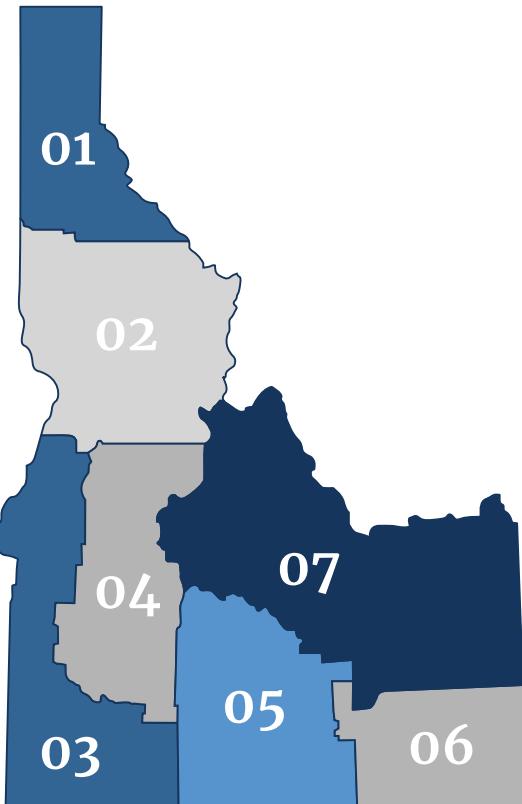
### Water Adjudication Court

A court of special jurisdiction for adjudicating water rights in Idaho is located in Twin Falls County and focuses on this unique area of law.

As a unified court system, all courts across Idaho are administered and supervised by the Idaho Supreme Court.

The system is comprised of seven judicial districts, each of which includes multiple counties. Each district is comprised of district courts and the magistrate division. District judges hear cases throughout the district. Although one magistrate judge is generally chambered in each county, magistrates may also travel throughout the district to hear cases.

The Judicial Branch shares statistics on court filings and outcomes online through a set of dashboards. You can visit [courtdata.idaho.gov](http://courtdata.idaho.gov) to examine these statistics for your county, district, or the state as a whole.



# Funding

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The Idaho Supreme Court is funded through an appropriation from the Idaho State General Fund and through various dedicated funds. The latter receive revenues from the collection of court fines and fees, beer and wine taxes, liquor fund transfers, filing fees, federal grants, and interest.

A significant portion of funding received by the Idaho Supreme Court is allocated to support local courts through judicial and court personnel salaries, courtroom equipment and software, hosting and storage services, judicial conferences and training, and judicial district allocations for a wide variety of court programs.

Idaho courts also rely on funding from county allocations as well as the collection of court fines and fees. Per state statute, the majority of court fines and fees are distributed to various city, county, and state funds supporting various programs and agencies.

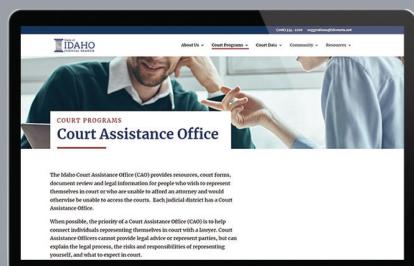
These include county sheriff's offices, county probation programs, Peace Officers Standards and Training, Fish and Game programs, public schools, and victim-related programs.

To learn more about the collection and distribution of court fines and fees, visit [courtdata.idaho.gov](http://courtdata.idaho.gov).

## Resources

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We are committed to continually improving how we serve Idaho, its people and our communities. Learn more about our programs, the resources available to you and other information at [annualreport.isc.idaho.gov](http://annualreport.isc.idaho.gov).



# Trial Court Financing Report

## FINE AND FEE DISTRIBUTION

Court fines and fees are collected by county courts and distributed per Idaho statute

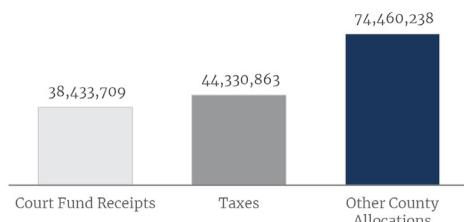
to cities, counties and state agencies to support various programs and services. In county fiscal year

2024\*, Idaho courts distributed \$60.2 million in assessed court fines and fees throughout the state — \$5.1 million to cities, \$26.1 million to counties, and \$29 million to the state of Idaho.

## SUPPORTING IDAHO COURTS

Funding Idaho trial courts is a partnership. Approximately 47.4% of total court fines and fees go to counties and the state to help fund the courts. Other court funding sources include General Fund appropriations, sales and property taxes, and federal grants. Idaho counties reported \$157.2 million in revenue for court-related funds in FY2024\*.

### County Reported Revenue



## TRIAL COURT EXPENDITURES

Trial court expenditures are paid directly by county funds and by allocations from the Idaho Supreme Court. Direct funding is used to support the payment of court and judicial personnel, operating expenses, and capital outlay.

Expenditures totaled \$185.3 million in FY2024. This does not include other expenses paid by the Idaho Supreme Court necessary for the operation of Idaho courts, such as software, cybersecurity, judicial education and travel, and courthouse computer equipment.

	COUNTY	STATE	TOTAL
Personnel Costs	\$122,551,533	\$42,245,295	\$164,796,828
Operating Expenses	\$12,540,437	\$11,472,841	\$24,013,278
Capital Outlay	\$865,168	\$377,830	\$1,242,998
Less: County Transfers	(\$4,744,850)	-	(\$4,744,850)
	\$131,212,288	\$54,095,966	\$185,308,254

\*Idaho counties' fiscal year-end is Sept. 30, which differs from the state's fiscal year-end of June 30. Due to the limited time that counties have to submit their trial court financial information to the Idaho Supreme Court, Idaho court financial information is presented for the previous fiscal year. This information is submitted by each county court to the Idaho Supreme Court for reporting purposes. The county data has not been audited or validated.

For the complete Idaho Trial Court Financing Report, go to: [annualreport.isc.idaho.gov](http://annualreport.isc.idaho.gov)

## 2025 Awards

### JUDGE DARREN SIMPSON | 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.

Seventh District Judge Darren Simpson was selected to recognize his unwavering commitment to fairness, integrity, diligence, and judicial excellence within his courtroom and beyond. He has overseen two different drug courts, helped implement a statewide mentor judge program still used today, and led his judicial district as its administrative judge.

### TAMMIE WHYTE | KRAMER AWARD



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

Former Seventh District Trial Court Administrator Tammie Whyte was recognized for her calm and steady leadership through the state's transition to electronic records and amid intense interest in various high-profile court cases. The award also recognized her ability to work with the counties in her district on support for court programs and services.

### JUDGE ANDREW ELLIS | LEGACY AWARD



Through the Legacy Award, the Magistrate Judges Association honors a judge for their dedicated and noteworthy leadership and service to their community, colleagues and citizens.

Ada County Magistrate Judge Andrew Ellis has become the state judiciary's "guru of child protection" — educating others and chairing a court committee on the topic. The award recognized his ongoing focus on children, the families involved, and finding permanent solutions in everyone's best interest.

### JERRY WOOLLEY | CHADWICK AWARD



Awarded by the justices of the Supreme Court, the Daniel G. Chadwick Award recognizes a county employee who in their work for the courts shows exemplary dedication and service to both groups' shared mission.

Jerry Woolley, Fifth District court assistance officer, has spent decades helping court users and court staff better understand their judicial system. She has built a reputation throughout her career as a source of aid and clarity. For that, she became the first recipient of this award.

