



Report to Governor
C.L. "Butch" Otter
and the 1st Regular
Session of the 63rd
Idaho Legislature

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Advancing Justice

Delivering Fair and Timely Justice

GREAT STRIDES MADE IN INSTITUTING EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT

Caseflow management refers to court supervision of case progress, including the management of time and events necessary to move a case from filing to disposition, regardless of the type of disposition. The Advancing Justice Committee has been charged with identifying and promoting effective caseflow management practices and assisting with the development of caseflow management plans for each judicial district. A subcommittee, chaired by 6th District Judge Stephen Dunn, has been established to accomplish these tasks.

In FY2014, the Idaho Supreme Court approved a statewide caseflow management plan developed by the Advancing Justice Committee. The plan aims to:

- Prevent unnecessary delay in case processing
- Ensure cases receive attention proportional to need
- Promote judicial leadership and institute continuous judicial oversight over case processing
- Create consistency, predictability, and common expectations for users of the court system
- Provide a framework for individual judicial districts to develop their own caseflow management plans

In April of 2014, the Idaho Supreme Court hosted a two-day workshop for teams from each judicial district to be trained in principles of caseflow management and develop caseflow management plans for the processing of felony cases within their district. The teams included judges, trial court administrators, lead court clerks, prosecutors, public defenders, and representatives from the Idaho Department of Correction, County Sheriff's Offices, and Misdemeanor Probation Offices. The workshop was facilitated by nationally renowned caseflow management expert, John Greacen. The event was well received by participants who reported that team discussions were an extremely productive way of addressing persistent caseflow management challenges.

Judicial districts are required to complete their felony caseflow management plans by January 1 of 2015. In addition, trial court administrators and administrative district judges have been asked to bring together teams to develop misdemeanor caseflow management plans for their districts following the same format.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ADVANCING JUSTICE

1. Every case receives individual attention.
2. Individual attention is proportional to need.
3. Decisions demonstrate procedural justice.
4. Case progress is monitored through early and continuous judicial supervision.
5. Unnecessary delay in case processing is prevented to the greatest extent possible.

PILOT TIME STANDARDS TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY DELAY AND PROMOTE TIMELY JUSTICE

In accordance with the Guiding Principles of Advancing Justice, the Advancing Justice Committee developed and recommended to the Supreme Court revisions to Idaho's existing time standards for case processing, contained in Idaho Court Administrative Rule 57. The revised time standards are to be piloted concurrent with the statewide implementation of Odyssey, the Court's new case management system. During the pilot period, case processing data will be gathered, analyzed, and carefully reviewed by the Committee. Revisions to the time standards will be considered at the end of the pilot prior to their becoming court rule. The time standards are intended to establish mutual, reasonable expectations between judges, attorneys, litigants, and the public, and to prevent unnecessary delay in case processing, resulting in more timely case resolution.

RULE AMENDMENTS INITIATED TO ALLOW COURTS TO REALIZE CASE MANAGEMENT GOALS

In an effort to make time standards and case management goals feasible, the Advancing Justice Rules Subcommittee, headed by 7th District Judge Greg Moeller, has been hard at work drafting amendments to existing court rules and drafting new rules that minimize unnecessary delay.

As a result of this work, modifications to Idaho Rules of Civil Procedure 16 and 56 went into effect on July 1, 2014 clarifying language and establishing shorter time requirements for certain aspects of civil case processing. A second review and revision of Idaho Rules of Civil Procedure 16 is currently underway to incorporate additional clarifying language. The Subcommittee is now working collaboratively with the Supreme Court's Criminal Rules Committee to draft amendments to several of Idaho's criminal rules and misdemeanor rules to address caseload management barriers relating to criminal case processing.

Together, these efforts—the development of caseload management plans, the revision of Idaho's time standards for case processing, and improvements to Idaho's court rules—will better position Idaho's courts to achieve fair and timely case resolution for the good of all Idahoans.

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