

THE STATE OF IDAHO  
SUPREME COURT

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STATE OF  
THE JUDICIARY

Chief Justice Roger S. Burdick  
January 16, 2019

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**\* Madam President, Mr. President Pro Tem, and distinguished members of the Idaho Senate, my colleagues on the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, and fellow Idahoans.**

**\*Mr. Speaker and distinguished members of the Idaho House of Representatives, my colleagues on the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, and fellow Idahoans.**

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Again thank you for the honor of appearing in front of you to discuss Idaho's judiciary, a group made up of not only judges and state administrative staff, but also hundreds of dedicated county clerks, probation officers and other county employees without which we could never do our jobs as judges. We can never forget the debt of gratitude judges owe to county commissioners and elected county clerks.

I'd like to now welcome the new members of Idaho's legislative and executive branch officers. A hardy welcome to twenty-five new legislators as well as a dozen or so new department directors. A special welcome to our new lieutenant governor, Janice McGeachin who will grow to love these State of Judiciary speeches as much as I have!

Because of so many new faces I thought I would like to highlight a few of our past accomplishments and then quickly touch on future issues affecting the "State of the Judiciary."

A national survey conducted by the Conference of Chief Justices has found that confidence in state court systems is at the highest level since polling was started in 2012. Idaho does share in that good news as a result of your support for new ideas to solve old or new problems as well as the hard work of our judges and county partners.

### THE PAST

In 2014 I had reported that since 2000, 43 district judges had been appointed. Now since 2014 another 7 appellate judges and justices, 16 district judges and 22 magistrate judges have retired. This has resulted in a whole new generation of judges and justices. As you can see the legislature and executive branches are not alone in change.