



*New Judge Profile*

**Laurie Fortier**

*Ada County Magistrate Judge  
Fourth Judicial District*

*April 28, 2014*



---

*No one can make you feel inferior without your consent. Eleanor Roosevelt*

*Anything's possible if you have enough nerve. J.K. Rowling*

*It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you don't stop. Confucius.*

*The only way to do great work is to love what you do. Steve Jobs.*

With quotes to live by like these, it is no wonder that Judge Laurie Fortier, the new Magistrate Judge in Ada County, has had an exciting and interesting journey to the bench of the Fourth Judicial District.

Raised in Coeur d'Alene with a younger sister and extended family in Payette, Judge Fortier commuted 40+ miles each way to attend Gonzaga Prep in Spokane, Washington for high school. She attended the University of Idaho where she received a Bachelor's of Science-Business in Accounting. It was her sorority advisor and her Business Law professor who encouraged Judge Fortier to attend law school. It was not something she had previously considered, however quickly realized that she enjoyed the legal aspects of her coursework more than the accounting.

Judge Fortier attended the University of Idaho, College of Law and afterwards was a law clerk for then District Judge Joel Horton. She then moved on to the Supreme Court where she clerked for Justices Roger Burdick and Jesse Walters. After two years in private practice, Judge Fortier joined the City Attorney's Office for the City of Boise where she served in a variety of positions before being appointed Magistrate Judge in Ada County. She sits primarily on Family Court matters.

Judge Fortier admits that learning a new area of the law has been both the most challenging and most interesting part of her new job. She also has found it to be more isolating than she anticipated. These two things, she says, have given her a fresh perspective on the law and her position. She has really enjoyed getting to know the family law bench and bar and has found them to be very welcoming.

In learning her new role, Judge Fortier states that one of the biggest challenges is dealing with self-represented litigants. "These parties are often very close to their case," she says, so that her role spans from issuing a ruling to sometimes being a mediator for the sides to air their differences. Which may have come in handy if she had become what she thought was her destiny, that of a third grade teacher. But in that life, her goal was to teach children fractions and how to write in cursive, noting good penmanship still has value in today's world.

She admires most her friends and family. “They all have strong work ethics, great senses of humor, volunteer their time in the community, and are a great support system for me,” she says. This is even more apparent in her personal life and pursuits. Judge Fortier notes her favorite vacation was in the Tuscany region of Italy and the Italian Riviera, one taken with her aunt.

Away from the court Judge Fortier lives an active lifestyle. Although she still enjoys baking and knitting, skills taught her by her mother at an early age, it is her passion for the outdoors that keeps her grounded. And literally ... on the run.

Judge Fortier has downhill skied since the 7th grade, but running and cycling are more recent and consuming passions. She notes they allow her to keep in shape and also to travel while doing something she greatly enjoys. Judge Fortier has participated in Cycle Oregon, a 430+ mile weeklong ride through Eastern Oregon and the Sea Wheeze Half Marathon in Vancouver, B.C. She has completed the Seattle to Portland road ride, 200+ miles in two days one year, and the following year in one day. She has run six other half marathons, only one of which was in Boise. Closer to home, Judge Fortier has served as a Race Planning Committee Member for the Race to Robie Creek helping to coordinate medical, emergency service, and traffic safety volunteers.

Confident, active, pursuing her dreams Judge Fortier actually lives by her favorite quotes. Having the nerve to accomplish what she wants, constantly on the move and loving her new job, she is a wonderful addition to the Family Law bench and bar in Ada County.

Welcome, new Magistrate Judge Laurie Fortier!