

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

*Goodrick v. Field*

Docket No. 47536

This case arrives at the Idaho Supreme Court as a certified question of law from the United States District Court for the District of Idaho. The certified question is, “[d]oes Idaho Code [section] 20-209 require the state board of correction to provide employment for all prisoners, and, if so, what is the minimum the board must do to implement the statute’s mandate?”

The Idaho Supreme Court answered the certified question as follows: Idaho Code section 20-209 requires the Board to make employment available for all prisoners in the form of: (1) labor assignments as prescribed by the Board’s rules and regulations; and/or (2) implementation of statutory work programs managed by the Board in accordance with its rules and regulation. The Board retains discretion to manage these prisoner employment opportunities pursuant to its broad control over the correctional system. Section 20-209 does not create a right of paid or unpaid employment during a prisoner’s period of incarceration or establish an employer-employee relationship between the Board and the prisoner. At a minimum, the Board must comply with legislation controlling its responsibilities managing prisoner employment and with its own rules and regulations.