

THE STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT



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Idaho Pro Bono Week Recognizes Legal Community's Volunteer Contributions, Duty to Serve Idahoans in Need

Idaho attorneys donate 14,000 hours of free legal services in 2016

Boise, ID – Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Burdick and the Idaho Pro Bono Commission proclaimed October 22-27 as Idaho Pro Bono Week, to honor the hundreds of attorneys who donate their time and expertise to ensure Idahoans with financial limitations have access to equal justice under the law.

Recognizing the need to provide free legal services for those lacking the resources to pay, the Idaho Pro Bono Commission was formed in 2008 by judges and lawyers across Idaho. Pro Bono Week is an extension of the commission's goal to increase pro bono participation of public and private sector attorneys while promoting the availability of free legal services to those in need and recognizing the volunteer contributions of the legal community as a whole.

In 2016, 741 volunteer attorneys worked on 548 cases, donating 14,330 hours of legal service time to Idahoans across the state through the [Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program](#) (IVLP). In total, this free legal advice and counsel helped more than 1,300 individuals with services valued at nearly \$3,000,000. The IVLP, which serves as a resource both for those seeking legal help and attorneys looking for opportunities to provide support, also launched the [Pro Bono Opportunities website](#) to promote pro bono services across the state.

Former Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Jim Jones has been actively involved with pro bono work and the Idaho Pro Bono Commission during his 50 years of public and private practice, describing: "some of my most rewarding work has been in pro bono cases. You could see relief in their eyes when you said you would not charge for the work," continued Jones. "It is a good feeling. I experienced it again several months ago when a young man, a refugee from the Congo, teared up when I told him he would not have to pay for my work in recovering a car that had been improperly repossessed by a used car dealer."

This year, Idaho Supreme Court Justice Robyn Brody replaced Jones as Chair of the Pro Bono Commission, reflecting an ongoing commitment to pro bono service and Commission members.

"Attorneys across Idaho are providing expert counsel to those who need it most, but we can always do more," noted Justice Brody. "Pro bono week is a reminder to us all that there is an

ongoing need for our expertise and how much of an impact a few hours of our time can make to the lives of Idahoans and their families.”

Idahoans who are in need of legal assistance should contact the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program through its website at isb.idaho.gov/ilf/ivlp/ or by calling 208-334-4500; or Idaho Legal Aid Services by visiting its website at IdahoLegalAid.org or calling 208-336-8980.

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