

THE STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT



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Idaho Supreme Court Justice Jones Announces Retirement

(Boise) – Justice Warren E. Jones announced he will be retiring from the Idaho Supreme Court, effective December 31, 2017, due to personal and family health circumstances.

Justice Warren E. Jones, an Idaho native who was born in Montpelier, Idaho, in 1943, attended grade school in Ogden, Utah, spending summers with his grandparents on a farm in Burley. He attended high school at Butte County High School in Arco, Idaho, graduating as valedictorian in 1961. He earned a B.A. degree, Magnum Cum Laude, in political science in 1965 from the College of Idaho before attending the University of Chicago Law School where he received his J.D. degree in 1968. After his second year of law school, he received a Ford Foundation Fellowship for advanced study in criminal law and procedure at Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago.

Following graduation from the University of Chicago in 1968, he returned to Idaho to work as a law clerk in 1968-1970 for the Honorable Joseph J. McFadden, Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court. Justice Jones then joined the law firm of Eberle, Berlin, Kading, Turnbow, McKlveen & Jones in 1970 where he later became the firm's senior litigator, specializing in litigation of all types, including negligence, products liability, professional malpractice and commercial litigation. During 37 years with the Eberle Berlin firm, Justice Jones tried over 122 jury cases to a verdict in 38 of the State's 44 counties.

In July 2007, he was appointed to be the 55th Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter.

Following his decade of service on the Court, Justice Jones observed, "It has been an extraordinary pleasure and privilege to serve the State and all Idahoans. I love the law, and whether trying cases for almost forty years or hearing cases on appeal throughout Idaho, serving as an attorney and judge have been wonderful experiences. I can think of no better way to finish out a legal career than by serving as a Justice on the Court—it has been a professional highlight and I have derived great personal satisfaction from my working relationships with the fellow Justices over the last ten years."

“We will miss Justice Jones’ unmatched trial experience on the Court. Beyond contributing to the work of the Court, one of Justice Jones’ significant contributions has been enhancing the Court’s consideration of the implications of its decisions on the attorneys,” said Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger S. Burdick. “Justice Jones has a true love of the law, and is thoughtful, thorough, and thoroughly professional.”

In accordance with the procedure for filling midterm vacancies, a new justice will be appointed by the governor to replace Justice Jones from a list of two to four names provided by the Idaho Judicial Council. This justice will serve out the remainder of the unexpired term, which ends in January 2021. A nonpartisan election to elect a justice for the next six-year term will be held in May 2020.

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