

THE STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT



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Idaho Supreme Court Justice Eismann Announces Retirement

(Boise) – Justice Daniel T. Eismann announced he will be retiring from the Idaho Supreme Court, effective August 31, 2017, after serving over thirty years in the Idaho judiciary.

Upon graduating cum laude from the University of Idaho, College of law in 1976, Justice Eismann began his legal career working as a law clerk for the Idaho Supreme Court. He returned to the Supreme Court twenty-five years later, this time as a newly elected justice. In the interim, he engaged in the general practice of law and then served for eight and one-half years as the magistrate judge in Owyhee County and for five and one-half years as a district judge chambered in Ada County.

While a magistrate judge, Justice Eismann helped create Children’s Voices, Inc., an organization to recruit, train and oversee guardians ad litem to represent the interests of neglected and abused children in court proceedings. He also organized and served on a community diversion board to handle outside the court system first-time juvenile offenders who had committed minor violations of the law. He would continue to identify and develop solutions to address serious community problems throughout his career.

While serving as a district judge, Justice Eismann believed that there must be a better way to address the increasing drug problem than merely telling defendants who were placed on probation to stop using drugs. In 1997, after studying the success of drug courts in other jurisdictions, he began working with the county prosecutor and public defender to set up a drug court. His efforts helped obtain a federal grant to establish the Ada County Drug Court in 1998, which has effectively reduced recidivism and enabled addicts to restore their lives, rebuild their family relationships, and become productive members of the community.

Justice Eismann presided over that drug court as a district judge and, upon becoming a justice, he worked to expand, support, and improve drug courts around the state. He has been the chair of the statewide Drug Court and Mental Health Court Coordinating Committee since its inception in 2001. In 2009, he was inducted into the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Stanley M. Goldstein Hall of Fame for his “preeminent contribution to the drug

court field.” In 2013, he received the Faith, Family and Freedom Award from the God & Country Association, Inc.

“It has been my distinct honor and privilege to serve the great state of Idaho and its citizens,” noted Justice Eismann. “Throughout my career, I have been fortunate to work alongside some of the most dedicated servants to our state and communities. I am proud of all that has been accomplished in the Idaho Courts and wish my colleagues the best as they continue to serve all Idahoans.”

“We will miss Justice Eismann’s keen intellect and considerable contributions to the Idaho Supreme Court, to the state’s jurisprudence, and to the people of Idaho,” said Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger S. Burdick. “He has served Idaho and its communities for several decades with unwavering commitment and compassion and is one of the most thoughtful, dedicated and intellectual colleagues one could ask for. I will personally miss his presence on the Court.”

In accordance with the procedure for filling midterm vacancies, a new justice will be appointed by the governor to replace Justice Eismann 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 2019. A nonpartisan election to elect a justice for the next six-year term will be held in May 2018.

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