

THE STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT



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**Idaho State Appellate Public Defender Named
New Administrative Director of the Courts**

Boise, ID – After an extensive search, the Idaho Supreme Court named Sara Thomas, Idaho's state appellate public defender, as the new administrative director of Idaho courts. Thomas will start her new role July 11, 2016.

"The Court was overwhelmed by the number of outstanding candidates we had apply for this position," said Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Jim Jones. "For years Sara has been working to improve Idaho's criminal justice system and she has earned the confidence and trust of the court. We look forward to the experience and perspective Sara will bring to this position. She understands our state's judicial needs and will help us work with the state on the court's judicial priorities."

Thomas graduated from Boise State University with a degree in criminal justice administration. She went on to receive her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Idaho College of Law. Thomas made her first appellate argument in front of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals while still in school and was appointed by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter to serve as the state appellate public defender in 2012.

"I am honored to serve Idahoans as the administrative director of the courts," said Thomas. "I have dedicated my career to helping ensure our state's justice system serves its people by providing fair, timely and impartial resolution of cases. I look forward to working with members of the court and continuing to help Idahoans in my new role."

Thomas is the current Chair of the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission, steering committee member for the National Association for Public Defense, which has more than 14,000 members across the country, a member of the Public Defense Commission and teaches other attorneys how to effectively use writing tools to help indigent defendants on appeal.

A statutory position, the administrative director leads court services ranging from community and family justice services to intergovernmental relations and trial court operations and helps set the strategic direction of the Idaho Courts.

"We are incredibly grateful for all Senior Justice Linda Trout and Senior District Judge Barry Wood have done while serving in their roles as interim administrative director of courts and interim deputy administrative director of the courts," said Chief Justice Jones. "Their hard work and commitment allowed us to wait until we found the perfect candidate."

Senior Justice Trout and Senior District Judge Wood served in their interim roles throughout the candidate search. The vacancy was created when the previous administrative director, Patti Tobias, left to take a position with the National Center for State Courts. Senior Justice Trout and Senior District Judge Wood will continue their work as senior judges for the state.

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