



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Idaho Judiciary



**MESSAGE
FROM
CHIEF
JUSTICE
JIM JONES**

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court. I intend to do my best to continue the tradition of my predecessor, Justice Roger Burdick, under whose leadership the Judiciary made a number of successful transitions and achieved a great many accomplishments. This continues to be a transformative time for the Idaho Courts. Innovation and change in a number of areas continue to promote increased access to the courts and the delivery of fair and timely justice, fostering public trust and confidence in the Idaho Courts. Some of the most significant changes are occurring in the areas of court technology, court services for self-represented litigants, language access, and monitoring and protection for individuals under guardianship or conservatorship.

On June 22, 2015, Twin Falls County “went live” with Idaho’s new digital court system. The transition included deployment of Odyssey, a proven case management system from Tyler Technologies, and the iCourt Portal, which allows the public as well as extended access users (such as prosecutors, public defenders, and government agencies) to search for cases, parties, and hearings and make electronic payments. In addition, electronic filing and service is now available to all attorneys and self-represented litigants filing court cases in Twin Falls County. According to Tyler Technologies, the Twin Falls County pilot court implementation was one of the smoothest they have seen. The new system will be implemented in Ada County in 2016 and in the remaining 42 counties over the next few years. This state-of-the-art case management and electronic filing system represents significant progress towards enhancing access for Idaho’s court users. In conjunction with the transition to electronic filing, the Idaho Courts will implement Odyssey Guide & File, a service that simplifies the filing process for self-represented litigants and promotes accuracy and consistency in legal documents filed. The Judiciary’s Court Assistance Office is developing interactive interviews and forms that will guide individuals through the process of electronically filing divorce, custody, small claims, civil protection, and other court assistance forms. This service will soon be ready for pilot and will become available as Idaho counties implement electronic filing.

Another priority of the Judiciary is to meet its obligation under state and federal law to be open and accessible to every person and to ensure that no individual is prohibited from meaningful participation in the court process as the result of a communication disability or limited proficiency in the English language. The Idaho Supreme Court Language Access Committee was formed in 2013 to develop policy recommendations and oversee procedures relating to language access, among other things. Two of the Committee’s current priorities are to develop a statewide language access plan, which will assist the Idaho Courts in meeting their legal obligations, and to increase the number of certified court interpreters available around the state by identifying additional training opportunities, to include on-line mentor assisted training. In addition, the Court is in the process of developing a set of policies and procedures that provides guidance to district courts about how to respond to requests for an accommodation under the ADA and how to handle requests for interpreters, as well as a process for filing of grievances.

The Idaho Courts continue to make great strides in enhancing protections for some of Idaho’s most vulnerable, those under court-ordered guardianship or conservatorship. These are cases in which the court grants an individual or entity the authority and obligation to make personal or financial decisions for a minor child or incapacitated adult. In FY2015, more than 2,600 financial reports reflecting over \$343 million in assets under the care of a conservator were reviewed for signs of fraud or mismanagement of funds. In addition, this past year, the Judiciary launched a guardianship monitoring pilot program to develop effective practices for court monitoring of guardianship cases. These efforts have already resulted in a 20% increase in the number of annual guardianship reports filed with the court in participating districts, greatly improving the courts’ ability to monitor and protect minor children and incapacitated adults under guardianship.

I have mentioned just a few of the many ways in which the Idaho Judiciary is working to provide fair and timely access to justice for all Idahoans. The Idaho Courts have a reputation for innovation and excellence and we look forward to the year ahead, which promises many more opportunities to uphold that reputation for the benefit of all Idahoans.



MISSION STATEMENT OF THE IDAHO COURTS

As the Third Branch of Government,
we provide access to justice through the timely,
fair, and impartial resolution of cases.

Strategic Goals & Major Objectives of the Idaho Courts

GOAL 1 - To provide Timely, Fair, and Impartial Case Resolution.

- Advance justice by resolving cases as early as possible, while guaranteeing the rights of the parties.
- Resolve cases involving children and families through the combined efforts of the courts, the family, and community services in ways that are least adversarial and intrusive.
- Improve the safety and well-being of children and families involved in child protection cases.

GOAL 2 - Ensure Access to Justice

- Strengthen and expand Court Assistance Office services options for legal representation for persons of limited means, language access services, and disability assistance while increasing the public's awareness of these services.
- Enhance the ability to efficiently conduct court business by using technology to increase access to and integration of information, as well as to improve business practices.

GOAL 3 - Promote Effective, Innovative Services

- Assure the highest level of service by recruiting highly-qualified judges and court personnel and advancing their professional development through educational opportunities.
- Enhance court programs and services by actively working with the legislative and executive branches of state government, counties, cities, and stakeholders to foster the necessary resources to meet the evolving needs of Idahoans.
- Provide long-term resolution of cases through effective application of the principles of problem-solving justice.

GOAL 4 - Increase Public Trust and Confidence in Idaho Courts

- Protect communities, reduce recidivism, and hold offenders accountable through evidence-based sentencing practices.
- Increase awareness of the importance of the jury system—as well as the public's participation in that system—and develop strategies to improve jury service and appreciation.
- Protect and empower vulnerable individuals under guardianship or conservatorship through education, monitoring, enforcement, and community support.



VALUES OF THE IDAHO COURTS

- Integrity
- Fairness
- Independence
- Respect
- Excellence
- Innovation

IDAHO COURT STRUCTURE AND JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



iCOURT ODYSSEY PROJECT

In the second year of a five-year plan, the Idaho Judiciary began implementation of iCourt, its most significant business and technology transformation project to date. It includes a transition to Odyssey, a new case management system, and to digital court records and statewide business practices in Idaho's courts. iCourt is expected to enhance access to court records, provide greater convenience for court users, facilitate better information exchanges with judicial partners, and result in significant efficiencies for court personnel, ultimately resulting in considerable cost savings for the courts and for court users.

On June 22, 2015, following three weeks of on-site training, Twin Falls County was the first county to discontinue use of the legacy Idaho Statewide Trial Court Automated Records System (ISTARS) and transition to Odyssey. On the first day of operation, District Judge Richard Bevan and Magistrate Judge Calvin Campbell fully transitioned to a digital courtroom, managing their caseload using the electronic court record within Odyssey, paving the way for the rest of the judges across the state. Twin Falls County court clerks were able to fully manage the daily operations of the courts and worked with the implementation team to refine the application configuration and business processes for future deployments to the remaining counties throughout Idaho.

In coordination with the pilot court go-live event, the iCourt Portal was also deployed for Twin Falls County. The Portal is the replacement of the Idaho Supreme Court Data Repository for counties that have transitioned to Odyssey and is used by both anonymous public users and extended access users (such as prosecutors, public defenders, government agencies, etc.). The portal will allow members of the public to search for cases, parties, and hearings, view some court documents, and make payments on-line, either from home or at the courthouse. In addition, electronic filing and service is now available to all attorneys and self-represented litigants filing cases in Twin Falls County. Parties can now submit electronic documents to Twin Falls County courts at any time, from anywhere. Upon acceptance, the system automatically files the document into the electronic court case record, driving significant efficiencies for attorneys and court clerks. This system also allows filing parties to digitally serve others and eliminate paper service costs, including time and mailing costs. The portal is a new product and is somewhat limited in its usability and flexibility; however, the vendor has committed to maturing this product over time.

Uniform business practices and forms were implemented in Twin Falls County to enable courts to maximize the use of Odyssey and to establish a framework that all courts will use as they transition to the new system. These new business practices will be critical to the ability of Idaho's courts to achieve the maximum efficiencies and benefits of a statewide system, providing operational consistency across the state. These processes will benefit traveling judges and attorneys who file in multiple jurisdictions, and improve the quality and access to statewide court data through uniform court forms and data fields.

The focus of the iCourt project has now shifted to delivery of the new system to Ada County, Idaho's largest county in 2016. This phase of the project will be the most complicated due to the number of integrations, data conversions, external users and varied business processes. Due to these complexities, the schedule for this phase has been adjusted, allowing for the deployment of Odyssey to better align with a separate large-scale systems replacement project with the Ada County Sheriff's Office. In preparation for this transition, the project team will assess the business processes in Ada County, work with local law enforcement agencies to facilitate the exchange of criminal justice data, establish the foundation for a new county prosecutor and public defender software application that is fully integrated within Odyssey, and prepare Ada County for the conversion of their ISTARS data to Odyssey to ensure historical court data is preserved.

**Improving
Access,
Enhancing
Data Sharing,
and
Maximizing
Data Sharing**



IDAHO PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Problem-solving courts began in 1989 as a criminal justice intervention that sought to end the cycle of addiction and hold offenders accountable through ongoing judicial interaction, intensive supervision, and effective treatment. Initially, these courts were called drug courts and focused on addicted offenders, but as the field has matured, the model has been adapted to meet the needs of offenders with mental health issues, juvenile offenders, DUI offenders, and others.

**Saving
Tax Dollars
and Lives
with a
Cost Effective,
Evidence-based
Sentencing
Alternative**

Idaho's first drug courts were established in Kootenai County, beginning in 1998, with Judges James Judd and Eugene Marano presiding, and in Ada County, starting in 1999, with now Supreme Court Justice Daniel Eismann presiding. In 2001, the 56th Idaho Legislature took historic action and enacted several bills establishing a statutory framework [I.C. §19-5601] for the expansion of drug courts to all judicial districts.

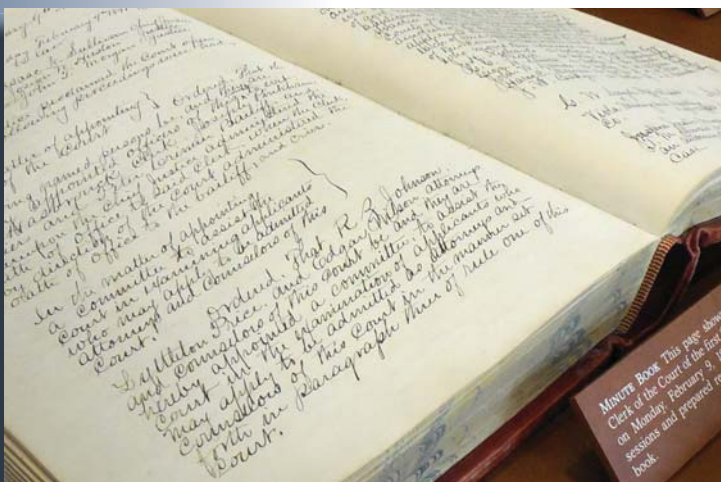
At the end of FY2015, there were 68 problem-solving courts throughout Idaho, serving over 2,500 offenders. Of special note in this last fiscal year is that two new Veterans Treatment Courts began and are now serving those who served their country. There are now six Veterans Treatment Courts throughout Idaho. These courts build on the successful background of drug courts and coordinate valuable resources from the Veterans Administration to ensure the specific needs (addiction, mental health issues, and trauma) of these veteran participants are addressed.

Idaho problem-solving courts continue to lead by example for similar courts throughout the nation. For the second time, the Bonneville County Mental Health Court was selected as a nationally recognized mental health court learning site by the Council of State Governments Justice Center. Jurisdictions across the country which are interested in starting a mental health court travel to Idaho Falls to visit the court and learn from its multidisciplinary team. In addition, the Bannock County Juvenile Drug Court has been recognized as a learning collaborative site with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. This Juvenile Drug Court has been tasked with implementing evidence-based strategies to achieve a great level of success, and will soon transition into a mentor site for other courts across the nation.

Another area where Idaho leads the nation is our development of best practice standards for problem-solving courts. The problem-solving court field has matured to the point where peer reviewed research and evaluations facilitate data-driven practice to ensure cost effectiveness and reduced recidivism. In FY2015, Idaho was the first state to draft standards and guidelines for Veterans Treatment Courts. To date, the Idaho Courts have adopted standards governing adult drug courts, juvenile drug courts, child protection drug courts, and mental health courts. Standards providing guidance for DUI courts are expected to be developed in the next year.

1891 Minute Book of the Idaho Supreme Court

This Minute Book contains handwritten minutes by the Clerk of the Court of the first State Supreme Court session held on Monday, February 9, 1891. The Clerk attended all Court sessions and prepared records of all significant events in this book.



ADVANCING JUSTICE

The Idaho Supreme Court Advancing Justice Committee was formed in 2012 to assist the Court in achieving its mission to provide access to justice through the timely, fair, and impartial resolution of cases. It does so by collaborating with attorneys and other justice partners, promoting effective caseload management practices across the state, facilitating the development of caseload management plans, and recommending rule changes and new rules that reduce unnecessary delay in case processing.

Caseload management refers to court supervision of case progress, including the management of time and events necessary to move a case from filing to resolution. Active caseload management prevents unnecessary case delay and ensures that each case receives individual attention proportional to need, facilitating a timely and just resolution. The Advancing Justice Committee is currently implementing a multi-year plan to facilitate development of caseload management plans for several major case types in each of Idaho's judicial districts. The plans will promote consistency, predictability, and common expectations among judges, attorneys, litigants, and the public and will serve as a tool for judicial districts as they strive to realize efficiencies in case processing and improve the overall administration of justice.

In FY2015, two separate two-day workshops were held in Boise to train teams from each judicial district in principles of caseload management and to facilitate development of district caseload management plans in the areas of child protection and family law. District teams included magistrate judges, trial court administrators, attorneys, court personnel, and executive branch justice partners.

To make case management efforts more successful, the Advancing Justice Rules Subcommittee continues to work hand-in-hand with the Civil Rules and Criminal Rules Committees to draft amendments to existing court rules and develop new rules that minimize unnecessary delay. As a result of this work, modifications to several Idaho Criminal Rules (ICR) took effect on July 1, 2015, including:

- An amendment to ICR 5.3(c)(7) ensuring the timely transport of probationers arrested in a county different from the one in which he or she was originally sentenced.
- An amendment to ICR 10 requiring that defendants be arraigned within 30 days of the filing of an information.
- An amendment to ICR 12 requiring specificity in motions to suppress such that the opposing party has sufficient notice of the evidence sought to be suppressed and the legal basis for its suppression.
- An amendment to ICR 18 distinguishing between felony pretrial conferences and informal settlement conferences and requiring a written record of matters decided during the former.

Advancing Justice is a multi-disciplinary effort, requiring a common understanding and coordination between the Judiciary, attorneys, and other justice partners. Recognizing this, the Committee has made an effort to update and solicit input from Idaho attorneys whenever possible. Advancing Justice Committee Chair, Senior Judge Barry Wood, Sixth Administrative District Judge Stephen Dunn, and Seventh District Judge Greg Moeller provided an update at the Idaho State Bar Annual Meeting in July of 2014. In addition, Judge Wood and Judge Dunn presented to the Idaho Trial Lawyers Association in October of 2014. The Committee continues to look for opportunities to collaborate with attorneys, executive branch agencies, and others to identify and reduce unnecessary delays in case processing.

**Delivering
Fair and
Timely
Justice**



GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP CASES

**Empowering
and
Protecting
Idaho's
Citizens
Through
Improved
Monitoring**

Guardianships are relationships created by Idaho law in which a court gives a person or entity (the guardian) the duty to make personal decisions for another (the ward). Conservatorships are relationships in which the court gives a person or entity (the conservator) the duty to make financial decisions for the ward. Idaho Code § 31-3201G created the Guardianship Pilot Project Fund to be used to develop pilot projects designed to improve reporting and monitoring processes that ensure adequate protection for persons under guardianship or conservatorship. The Idaho Supreme Court Guardianship and Conservatorship Committee (GC Committee) is charged with establishing and overseeing implementation of these pilot projects.

During FY2015, the GC Committee launched two pilot projects in the Third and Fifth Judicial Districts to explore and develop best practices for comprehensive court monitoring functions for guardianship cases. To date, the coordinators have primarily concentrated on locating missing guardians and conservators who fail to report annually as required, identifying cases that require additional monitoring activities, and reviewing annual reports of the guardian, among other things. As a result of this effort, the Third and Fifth Districts have seen a 20% increase in compliance with reporting requirements. This is one of the most effective and efficient ways to determine how the person under guardianship is functioning and if the guardian is fulfilling his or her responsibilities to protect the interests of the minor or incapacitated individual. Coordinators have also evaluated and reviewed over 160 guardianship cases to identify risk factors for abuse or neglect and provide intensive follow-up for those cases deemed most at risk.

The Fifth Judicial District is also participating in an Eldercaring Coordination pilot project, focused on reducing levels of conflict in families regarding the care and safety of an elder, so that the elder and family members can more productively address the issues at hand and work with others in their support system to receive legal advice, guidance, and care. Three eldercaring coordinators have completed the intensive training to provide alternative dispute resolution for contested guardianship and conservatorship cases. At the completion of the one year pilot, the project will be evaluated to determine how to best replicate it in other jurisdictions across the state.

The Idaho Legislature has recognized through Title 66 of the Developmental Disability Code and Title 15 of the Uniform Probate Code that every individual has unique needs and differing abilities, and public welfare is promoted by establishing a guardianship or conservatorship that permits persons to participate as fully as possible in decisions affecting them. To further this objective, the GC Committee is researching less intrusive alternatives to traditional guardianships and conservatorships that take into account each individual's unique circumstances. These options include:

- Person-centered planning which encompasses the idea that the individual is at the heart of all decisions about services, support, and care.
- Limited Guardianships and Conservatorships where the person appointed to make decisions for another has only limited powers and the person under guardianship or conservatorship retains independence in those areas for which he has the capacity to make decisions.
- Supported Decision Making occurs when people choose trusted friends, family members and professionals to help them understand the situations and choices they face, so they may make their own decisions.

The GC Committee looks forward to implementing some of these options in Idaho's judicial districts in the coming years.



COURT ASSISTANCE

Every county in Idaho has a court assistance office that promotes equal and meaningful access to the courts. Court assistance offices (CAOs) refer self-represented litigants to resources and court forms, review completed court forms for accuracy, and provide legal information to help self-represented litigants better understand their rights and responsibilities. In FY2015, over 51,000 people were served by phone, mail, email, video conference, and in-person. The majority of individuals surveyed (66%) were at 125% of the poverty level; 56% of those surveyed had an annual income of less than \$20,000.

Efforts continue to expand court assistance services across the state, particularly in traditionally underserved rural areas. A new full-time court assistance officer position was created to serve Elmore, Valley, and Boise Counties in the Fourth Judicial District. Due to the distance and weather-related challenges of reaching these counties, the new office received the equipment necessary for video conferencing and remote review of court forms. The court assistance officer serving these areas will also work on statewide projects, which include technology projects to improve accessibility and delivery of CAO services.

Pre-filing forms workshops are now being offered in six of the seven judicial districts. These workshops provide self-represented litigants with instructions and information about court forms and legal processes in a classroom type setting. They are offered in conjunction with family court services and are effective at providing important information to parents to help them develop their parenting plans and schedules. Recent efforts have been made to expand this resource to rural counties. Two of the Fifth Judicial District's rural counties – Cassia and Minidoka – began offering these workshops regularly this past year. The Seventh Judicial District will soon begin offering their forms workshop by video-conference to all ten counties in the district.

Efforts have also been made to expand attorney workshops to rural counties. Attorney workshops allow self-represented litigants to consult with an attorney to receive brief legal advice. They also provide practicing attorneys with opportunities to provide pro bono services (legal services at no cost). These workshops were recently expanded to Cassia, Minidoka, and Clearwater Counties, all rural counties. In addition, the Bannock and Canyon County Court Assistance Offices recently collaborated with the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, local District Bar Associations, Idaho Military Legal Alliance, and additional local partners to create the Idaho Service-Members and Veterans Legal Clinics in those counties. Attorney workshops are now provided in four of the seven judicial districts.

This past year, the Treasure Valley benefitted from valuable collaborations between local universities and CAOs. The Canyon County CAO coordinated with the University of Idaho College of Law in recruiting an extern to work in the office for the summer. In addition, the statewide CAO also participated in the Concordia University School of Law Mentorship Project Class and received valuable assistance from law students on two very important projects. The students helped develop and draft content for an informational webpage for the court assistance website and also helped create informational how-to videos that will be made available on the website. This is likely only the beginning of the collaborative efforts that can be expected from partnering with the local law schools.

**Promoting
Equal
Access
to Justice**



FY2015 RECOGNITION, AWARDS, AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

JUSTICE JIM JONES ELECTED CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE IDAHO SUPREME COURT

Justice Jim Jones was elected by the other members of the Supreme Court to serve as Chief Justice, succeeding Justice Roger Burdick, who just completed his term. Justice Jones served as Attorney General for two terms in the 1980's. He was elected to the Supreme Court in 2004 and re-elected in 2010. This is his first term as Chief Justice.

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE KAREN LANSING RETIRES

Idaho Court of Appeals Judge Karen Lansing retired after serving on the bench for 22 years. While with the Court, Judge Lansing served three terms as Chief Judge of the Court and authored more than 2,600 appellate decisions. She chaired the Idaho Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Idaho Rules of Evidence, co-chaired the Judicial Recruitment Committee, and served on the Appellate Rules and Fairness and Equality Committees.

GOVERNOR OTTER APPOINTS THIRD DISTRICT JUDGE MOLLY HUSKEY TO THE IDAHO COURT OF APPEALS

Governor Otter appointed Judge Molly Huskey to succeed Judge Karen Lansing on the Idaho Court of Appeals. Judge Huskey served as a public defender and as a prosecutor in Bonneville County. She later joined the Office of the State Appellate Public Defender and was appointed as the State Appellate Public Defender in 2002. She was appointed to the district bench in 2011.

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE LINDA COPPLE TROUT AND SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGE BARRY WOOD APPOINTED AS INTERIM ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR AND INTERIM DEPUTY ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE IDAHO COURTS

Following Patti Tobias' departure from the Idaho Courts in September of 2014, former Chief Justice Linda Copple Trout was appointed to serve as interim administrative director and Senior District Judge Barry Wood was appointed to serve as interim deputy administrative director. They will remain in these roles until the administrative director position has been filled.

THE IDAHO JUDICIARY CELEBRATES THE COMPLETION OF THE SNAKE RIVER BASIN WATER ADJUDICATION (SRBA)

Fifth District Judge Eric Wildman signed the final decree of the SRBA in August of 2014. This event denotes the largest completed single-stream water adjudication in the United States. It took more than 25 years to complete and required judicial determinations on more than 150,000 claims. The late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was the keynote speaker at an event in Boise to mark this historical event.

THE IDAHO COURTS LAUNCH AN ELECTRONIC COURT SYSTEM

The Idaho Courts took the first step in transitioning to iCourt, a modernized, electronic court system. On June 22nd, 2015, Twin Falls County launched Odyssey, the new case management system, and the iCourt public portal, which offer improved access to court records, better information exchange between judicial partners, and increased efficiencies within Idaho's judicial system. Idaho's remaining 43 counties will make this same transition over the next few years.



FY2015 RECOGNITION, AWARDS, AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS

ADA COUNTY MAGISTRATE JUDGE RUSSELL COMSTOCK PRESENTED WITH THE GRANATA AWARD

Ada County Magistrate Judge Russell Comstock was presented with the Granata Award for his continued commitment to helping Idaho families. The Granata Award, named for the late District Court Judge George Granata, Jr., is presented annually to an individual in recognition for their professionalism in the judiciary. Judge Comstock was a founding member of the Supreme Court Children and Families in the Courts Committee, formed in 2000 to ensure the effective, timely, and fair resolution of family law matters. He has chaired the committee since 2011. Judge Comstock led a workgroup that created the Idaho Rules of Family Law Procedure in an effort to make family law as clear and accessible as possible.

FIFTH DISTRICT TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR LINDA WRIGHT PRESENTED WITH THE KRAMER AWARD

The Kramer Award is presented annually to individuals who display excellence in judicial administration. Linda Wright received the award for her outstanding commitment to serving Idaho's Judiciary and her community. She has served as the Fifth Judicial District's trial court administrator since 1994, previously serving as the Twin Falls County Elected Clerk. Linda was instrumental in establishing a number of problem-solving courts in the Fifth Judicial District. She serves on numerous boards and committees throughout the state including the Drug Court and Mental Health Court Committee and the Children and Families in the Courts Committee.

JUDGE SERGIO GUTIERREZ HONORED BY CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Idaho Court of Appeals Judge Sergio Gutierrez was presented with the Concordia University Leaders in Action Award, which honors statewide leaders who have made significant contributions to improving the lives of Idahoans. From serving on the Governor's Coordinating Council for Children & Families to visiting schools and youth organizations to inspire students to pursue their education, Judge Gutierrez works to improve community, equity, and education in Idaho.

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE LINDA COPPLE TROUT RECEIVED THE DISTINGUISHED LAWYER AWARD FROM THE IDAHO STATE BAR

Former Chief Justice Trout was honored with the Idaho State Bar's highest award. The Distinguished Lawyer Award is given to an attorney (or attorneys) each year who has distinguished the profession through exemplary conduct and many years of dedicated service to the profession and to Idaho citizens. She was recognized for her leadership chairing the Supreme Court's Design and Implementation Team, which is tasked with standardizing and upgrading all the state's courts into one computer system. Justice Trout currently serves as interim administrative director of the Idaho Courts.

MAGISTRATE JUDGES RUSSELL COMSTOCK AND MICK HODGES HONORED WITH IDAHO STATE BAR SERVICE AWARDS

Judge Comstock was recognized for his role in creating the Idaho Rules of Family Law Procedure, which are intended to reduce costs and increase access and fairness in the area of family law. Judge Hodges was recognized for his volunteer service to his community and to the Idaho Judiciary. He has served on numerous committees including the Fifth District Pro Bono Committee and the Child Protection Advisory Team.



FY2015 RECOGNITION, AWARDS, AND NEW DEVELOPMENTS



THIRD DISTRICT JUDGE GEORGE SOUTHWORTH HONORED AT A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT GRADUATION

Judge Southworth was presented with two awards for his work as presiding judge of the Canyon County Veterans Treatment Court. The awards were from the Department of Labor and the Joining Forces for Treasure Valley Veterans to recognize and show support for his continued efforts for veterans in the community.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT SELECTED AS A NATIONAL LEARNING SITE

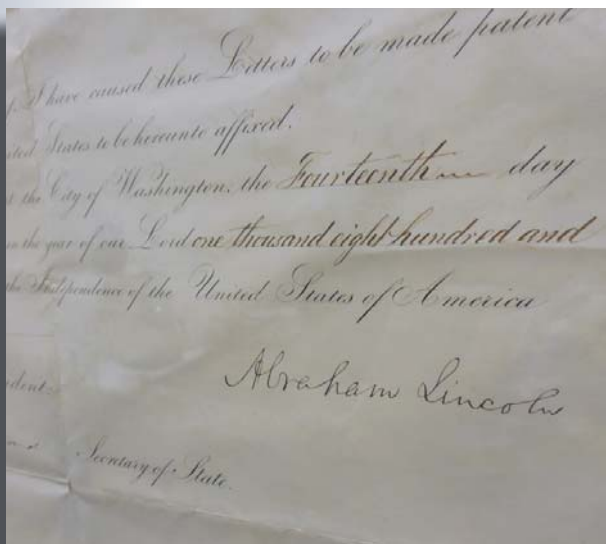
The Bonneville County Mental Health Court has again been selected by the Council of State Governments Justice Center as a national learning site. A learning site is designated to share expertise with other criminal justice and mental health organizations across the country seeking to start or expand a mental health court or other criminal justice / mental health collaboration effort.

TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS DAN KESSLER AND LINDA WRIGHT RETIRE

Third Judicial District trial court administrator, Dan Kessler, and Fifth Judicial District trial court administrator, Linda Wright retired in the fall of 2015.

Dan has served in this role since 1989 and has served on several Supreme Court Committees including the Court Technology Committee, Misdemeanor/Infraction Rules Committee, and the Advancing Justice Committee and has represented the Supreme Court on the Juvenile Training Council and Misdemeanor Probation Planning Committee. He was the recipient of the 2007 Kramer Award.

Linda Wright has served in her role as trial court administrator for over 20 years. She is an Institute for Court Management Fellow, awarded by the National Center for State Courts and is the recipient of the 2014 Kramer Award.



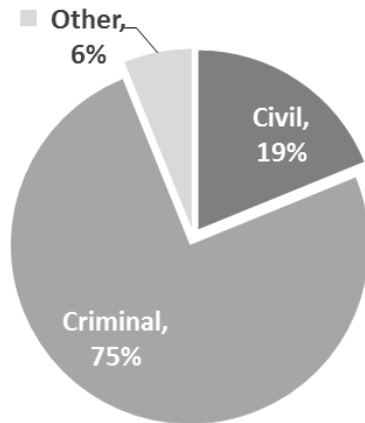
Lincoln Document Resides in Robing Room

*This document, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on March 10, 1863, appointed Sydney Edgerton as Chief Justice of the Court of the United States for the Territory of Idaho. The original document, which typically resides in the Supreme Court's Robing Room, is currently on loan to the Idaho Historical Society as part of an expansive exhibition: **Abraham Lincoln: his Legacy in Idaho.***

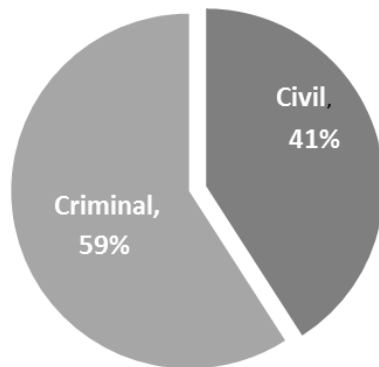
STATEWIDE CASELOAD STATISTICS

FY2015 Caseloads

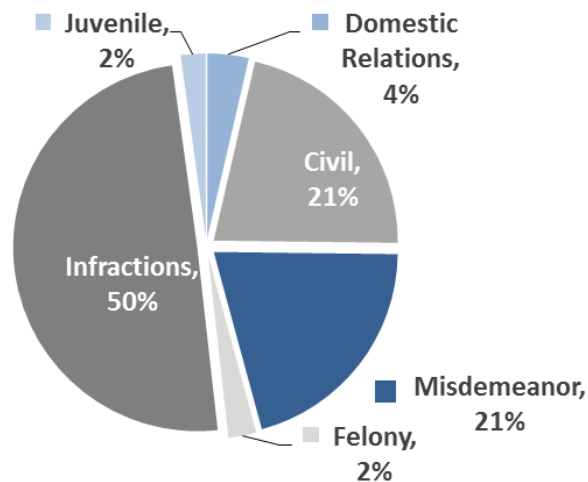
Appellate



District Court

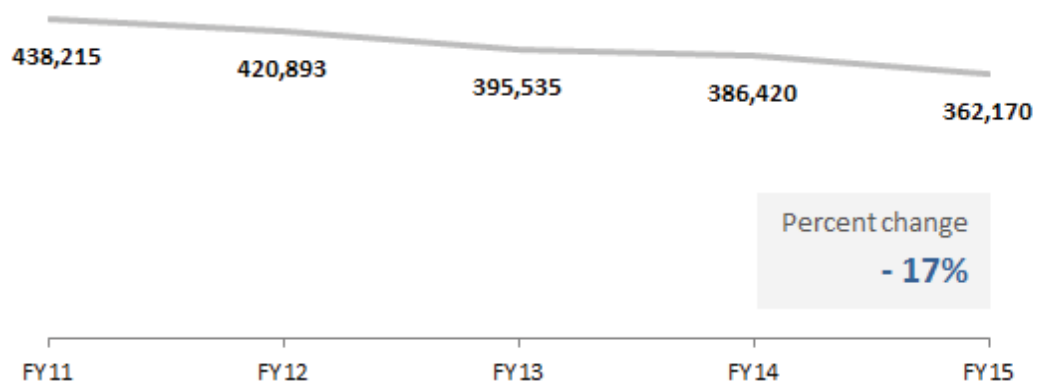


Magistrate Division



STATEWIDE CASELOAD TRENDS

Total Case Filings: 5 Year Trend

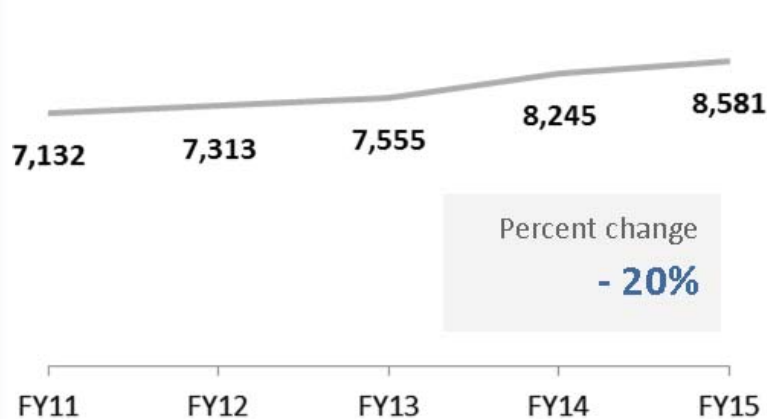


District Court Filings: 5 Year Trend



Civil case filings in District Court have decreased 37.5% from 2011 to 2015*

* includes post-judgment actions



Criminal case filings in District Court have increased 20% from 2011 to 2015



Percent Change reflects the overall percentage of change between FY2011 and FY2015. Filing data from Twin Falls County includes filings during FY2015 until June 16, 2015, when the new case management system was implemented.

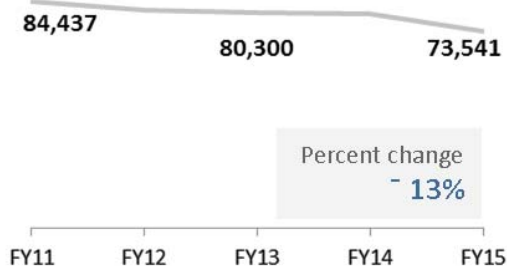
STATEWIDE CASELOAD TRENDS

Magistrate Division Filings: 5 Year Trend

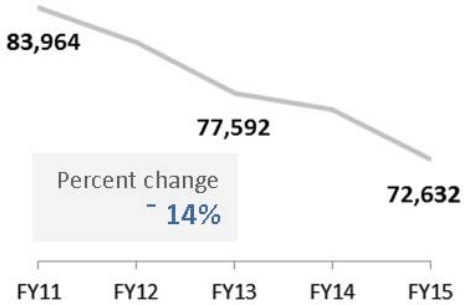
Domestic Relations/ Divorce**



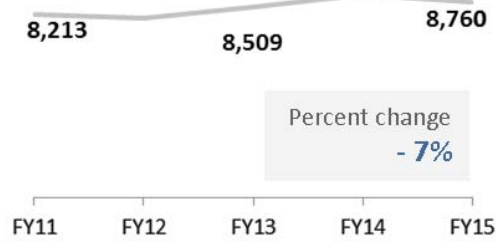
Civil (other than DR/DV)**



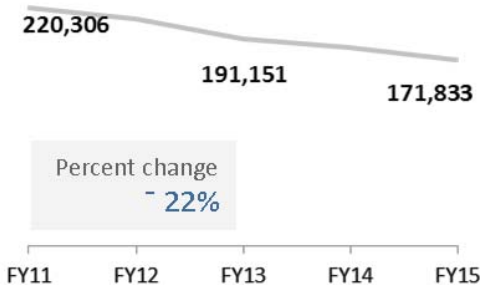
Misdemeanor



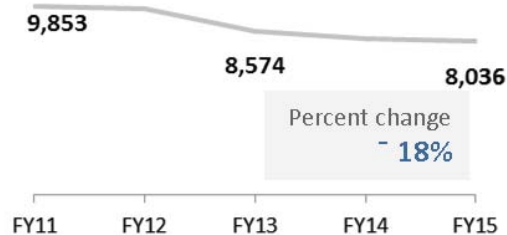
Felony



Infraction



Juvenile



IDAHO COURT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

In 2009, the Idaho Supreme Court adopted nine court performance measures developed by the National Center for State Courts for trial courts. Three of these are statistical performance measures that are monitored and reported regularly: Clearance Rates, Time to Disposition, and Age of Pending Caseloads.

- A **Clearance Rate** is the number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases. The Court's goal is to achieve 100% clearance rates for each case type; that is, to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed or reopened.
- **Time to Disposition** measures the length of time it takes courts to process cases. It is used to compare actual case processing times against pre-determined performance benchmarks, with the goal that at least 90% of each case type meet the established timeframes.
- **Age of Active Pending Caseload** refers to the age of active court cases, cases that have not yet been disposed. This is an interim measure used to ensure active caseloads do not exceed performance benchmarks for case processing. As with time to disposition, the goal is that at least 90% of cases meet established timeframes.

Per Idaho Court Administrative Rule 57, the case processing goals for time to disposition and age of active pending caseload are*:

Civil (District Court)	540 days
Felony (District Court)	150 days
Small Claims	90 days
Other Civil Claims (Magistrate Div.)	180 days
Domestic Relations	180 days
Felony (Magistrate Div.)	30 days
Misdemeanor	90 days
Juvenile Felony	90 days
Juvenile Misdemeanor	90 days
Infractions	60 days

*These case processing goals are currently being reevaluated.

Early Supreme Court Case Assignment

This box was used by the early Idaho Supreme Court for case assignments. A small card bearing the case number was placed in the box, and each justice, by seniority, drew a case for the next term of court by lot.



CLEARANCE RATES: NUMBER OF OUTGOING CASES AS A PERCENTAGE OF INCOMING CASES

The Court's goal is to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed or reopened.



TIME TO DISPOSITION: PERCENTAGE OF DISPOSED CASES MEETING TIME STANDARDS

The Court's goal is at least 90% of cases meet the established time standard.



AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD: PERCENTAGE OF PENDING CASES MEETING TIME STANDARDS

The Court's goal is that at least 90% of cases meet the established time standard, as of June 30th, 2015.

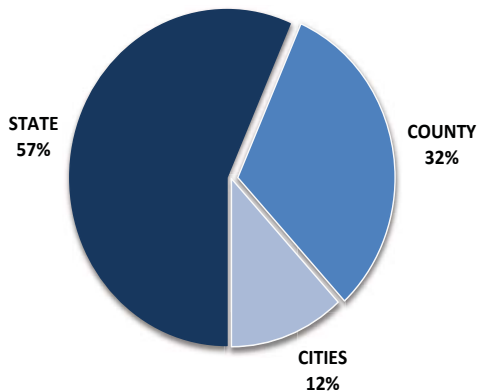


TRIAL COURT COSTS & REVENUES

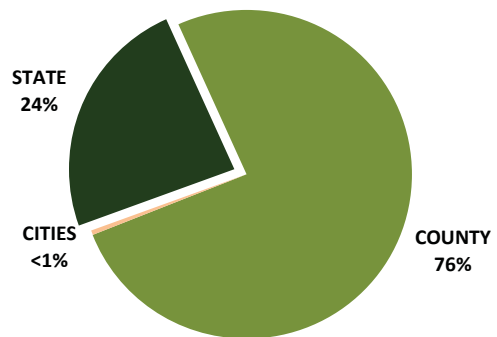
County Fiscal Year 2014*

	REVENUE	EXPENSES	REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES
STATE	\$ 28,158,457	\$ 23,473,200	\$ 4,685,257
COUNTIES**	\$ 15,704,617	\$ 74,665,111	(\$ 58,960,494)
CITIES	\$ 5,905,510	\$ 444,122	\$ 5,461,388
TOTALS	\$ 49,768,584	\$ 98,582,433	(\$ 48,813,849)
* COUNTY FY2014 OCTOBER 1, 2013 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 (BENEWAH, IDAHO, PAYETTE, CLARK, AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES ARE REPRESENTED WITH FISCAL YEAR 2013 DATA)			
* STATE FY2014 JULY 1, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2014			
** NOT INCLUDED IN EXPENSES JUVENILE DETENTION COSTS = \$15,076,270 (PUBLIC DEFENDER COSTS AND PROSECUTOR COSTS ARE NO LONGER REPORTED ON THE TRIAL COURT FINANCING REPORT.)			

TOTAL TRIAL COURT REVENUES
County Fiscal Year 2014
\$49,768,584



TOTAL TRIAL COURT COSTS
County Fiscal Year 2014
\$98,582,433



CHANGES WITHIN THE JUDICIARY

Court of Appeals

New Appointment: Hon. Molly J. Huskey, September 2015

Retirement: Hon. Karen Lansing, June 2015

First District

New Appointments

Hon. Anna Eckhart, Magistrate Judge, Kootenai County, September 2014

Hon. James Combo, Magistrate Judge, Kootenai County, January 2015

Hon. Cynthia Meyer, District Judge, June 2015

Hon. Douglas Payne, Magistrate Judge, Benewah County, September 2015

Retirements

Hon. Penny Friedlander, Magistrate Judge, Kootenai County, August 2014

Hon. Barry Watson, Magistrate Judge, Kootenai County, December 2014

Hon. Benjamin Simpson, District Judge, April 2015

Hon. Patrick McFadden, Magistrate Judge, Benewah County, August 2015

Second District

New Appointment: Hon. Gregory Fitzmaurice, District Judge, February 2015

Retirement: Hon. Michael Griffin, District Judge, January 2015

Third District

No changes

Fourth District

New Appointments

Hon. Diane Walker, Magistrate Judge, Ada County, July 2014

Hon. Samuel Hoagland, District Judge, January 2015 *[contested election]*

Hon. Jonathan Medema, District Judge, June 2015

Hon. Michael Reardon, District Judge, October 2015

Retirements

Hon. Terry McDaniel, Magistrate Judge, Ada County, June 2014

Hon. Michael Wetherell, District Judge, January 2015

Hon. Thomas Neville, District Judge, February 2015

Hon. Cheri Copsey, District Judge, September 2015

Fifth District

New Appointment: Hon. Jennifer Haemmerle, Magistrate Judge, Blaine County, January 2015

Retirement: Hon. R. Ted Israel, Magistrate Judge, Blaine County, December 2014

Sixth District

New Appointment: Hon. David Hooste, Magistrate Judge, Oneida County, July 2015

Retirements: Hon. David Evans, Magistrate Judge, Oneida County, June 2015

Seventh District

New Appointments

Hon. Bruce L. Pickett, District Judge, January 2015 *[contested election]*

Hon. James Barrett, Magistrate Judge, Custer County, September 2015

Retirements

Hon. Jon Shindurling, District Judge, January 2015

Hon. Charles Roos, Magistrate Judge, Custer County, August 2015

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IDAHO JUDICIARY

Supreme Court

Chief Justice Jim Jones
Justice Daniel T. Eismann
Justice Roger S. Burdick
Justice Warren E. Jones
Justice Joel D. Horton

Court of Appeals

Chief Judge John M. Melanson
Judge Sergio A. Gutierrez
Judge David W. Gratton
Judge Molly J. Huskey

Administrative District Judges

Hon. Lansing Haynes - *1st Judicial District*
Hon. Jeff Brudie - *2nd Judicial District*
Hon. Bradley Ford - *3rd Judicial District*
Hon. Timothy Hansen - *4th Judicial District*
Hon. Richard Bevan - *5th Judicial District*
Hon. Stephen Dunn - *6th Judicial District*
Hon. Darren Simpson - *7th Judicial District*

Trial Court Administrators

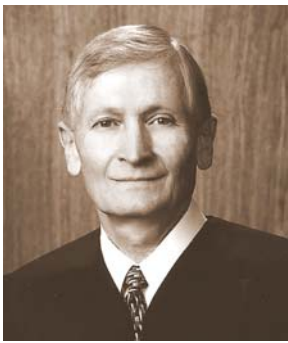
Karlene Behringer - *1st Judicial District*
Hon. Jay Gaskill (Acting) - *2nd Judicial District*
Doug Tyler - *3rd Judicial District*
Larry Reiner - *4th Judicial District*
Shelli Tubbs - *5th Judicial District*
Suzanne Johnson - *6th Judicial District*
Burton Butler - *7th Judicial District*

Contributing To The Report

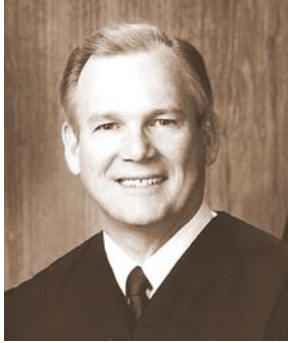
Hon. Linda Copple Trout - *Interim Administrative Director of the Courts*
Hon. Barry Wood - *Interim Deputy Administrative Director of the Courts*
Taunya Jones - *Planning and Research Manager*
Aimee Hesterman - *Court Data Specialist*
Shirley Throop - *Executive Assistant*

Photo Credits

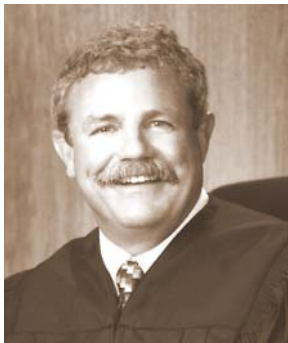
Cover Artwork: Idaho Supreme Court Building by Ward Hooper
Artifact photos on pages 6, 12, and 17 by Shirley Throop



Chief Justice Jim Jones



Justice Daniel T. Eismann



Justice Roger S. Burdick



Justice Warren E. Jones



Justice Joel D. Horton

