

THE STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT

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Idaho Pro Bono Week Recognizes Individuals Serving Idahoans in Need

Boise, ID – The Idaho Supreme Court has proclaimed October 25-31, 2015 as Idaho Pro Bono Week. This week is designed to honor the hundreds of attorneys who donate their time and services to help ensure all Idahoans, no matter their economic status, have access to equal justice under the law.

Many families and individuals are unable to afford legal services despite their need for urgent legal help. The Idaho Pro Bono Commission was formed in 2008 by judges and lawyers to help address this problem.

During 2014, more than 750 public and private attorneys, working in association with the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, donated 14,000 hours of attorney assistance to thousands of Idahoans across the state. These volunteers provided legal representation in more than 600 state court cases. These free services are valued at almost \$2,000,000.

“Equal justice and the fair administration of justice are fundamental to our system of government,” said Idaho Supreme Court Justice and Chairman of the Idaho Pro Bono Commission Jim Jones. “Pro bono work constitutes a donation of a lawyer’s stock in trade – his or her work time – and we thank every member of our legal community who has done their part to help Idahoans seek justice. Every year, hundreds of families are helped through the volunteer work of dedicated attorneys. We look forward to continuing to do our part to help those in need.”

Every student graduating from the University of Idaho College of Law is required to participate in the school’s pro bono program. Members of the 2014 graduation class logged more than 9,300 hours of pro bono work. Law students and faculty at Concordia University School of Law contributed 1,152 volunteer hours in 2014.

While pro bono opportunities exist for lawyers across the state, some firms are making an effort to give back as a team. For example, Holland & Hart is working to help individuals with UVisa cases. UVisas allow certain victims of crime to seek non-immigrant legal status in United States for providing help to Federal, State or local authorities investigating cases or prosecuting a crime.

Idahoans who are in need of legal assistance should contact the Volunteer Lawyers Program through the Idaho State Bar website at ISB.idaho.gov 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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STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT COURT OF APPEALS



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THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
PROCLAMATION

IDAHO PRO BONO WEEK-2015

The Supreme Court of the State of Idaho hereby proclaims the week of October 25-31, 2015, as Idaho Pro Bono Week-2015 to recognize individuals and organizations who have provided free legal services to economically disadvantaged individuals in the State of Idaho and to encourage the continued performance of such pro bono service. As a constituent member of the Idaho Pro Bono Commission, along with the United States District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Idaho, the Idaho State Bar, the Idaho Law Foundation, the University of Idaho College of Law, and Concordia University College of Law, the Idaho Supreme Court adopts the attached Resolution of the Idaho Pro Bono Commission recognizing Idaho Pro Bono Week-2015.

DATED at Boise, Idaho, this 20th day of October, 2015.

Jim Jones
Chief Justice

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Kenyon
Steve Kenyon, Clerk



RESOLUTION DESIGNATING IDAHO PRO BONO WEEK- 2015

WHEREAS, we are a nation dedicated to "liberty and justice for all," and equal justice and the fair administration of justice are fundamental to our system of government; and

WHEREAS, the promise of equal justice under the law is not realized for individuals and families who have no meaningful access to the justice system because they are unable to pay for legal services; and

WHEREAS, this de facto denial of equal justice has an adverse impact on these individuals, families, and society as a whole, and works to erode public trust and confidence in our system of justice; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's lawyers and judges strongly support the provision of free-of-charge legal services to those can't afford them and have joined together in a collaborative effort to support pro bono services through the establishment of the Idaho Pro Bono Commission; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, more than 750 public and private attorneys, working in association with the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, provided more than 14,000 hours of volunteer attorney assistance to more than 2,100 low-income individuals and family members, including the provision of legal representation in more than 600 state cases, while in 2014 volunteer lawyers provided 658 hours of pro bono service in federal court cases; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Legal Aid Services is a statewide non-profit law firm dedicated to serving the civil legal needs of low income Idahoans through its seven regional offices and in 2014 its staff attorneys and attorney volunteers provided 18,179 hours of free legal services to thousands of Idahoans with legal problems such as domestic violence, wrongful evictions, illegal foreclosure, guardianships for abused or neglected children, Medicaid and Social Security problems of seniors, and unlawful discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Law Foundation is sponsoring a statewide Access to Justice campaign to fund legal services for low-income residents and persons with disabilities, with the funding to be shared among the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, Idaho Legal Aid Services, and Disability Rights Idaho; and

WHEREAS, many Idaho lawyers, acting upon their volition, generously provide many untallied hours of pro bono service to the citizens of our State without receiving recognition for their unpaid services; and

WHEREAS, the graduating class of 2014 at the University of Idaho College of Law compiled approximately 9,330 hours of pro bono services, under the supervision of lawyers and judges, as part of the College's distinctive pro bono program in which every student participates; and

WHEREAS, students and faculty at Concordia University School of Law contributed 1,152 hours of pro bono service in 2014, and are committed to expanding access to justice through their pro bono service requirement, their on-site legal clinic, and providing pro bono training for Idaho lawyers; and

WHEREAS, October 25-31 has been designated as National Pro Bono Week; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Pro Bono Commission, consisting of the state courts of Idaho, the United States Courts for the District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Idaho, the Idaho State Bar, the Idaho Law Foundation, and the University of Idaho College of Law, and Concordia University School of Law, recognizes the need to expand the delivery of legal services to economically disadvantaged persons and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Idaho Pro Bono Commission and its constituent members recognize Pro Bono Week, October 25-31, 2015, as a time for Idaho, along with the rest of the Nation, to honor the work of those who provide volunteer legal services, to address the need for civil legal assistance on matters of profound urgency, and to remind all attorneys of their responsibility to assist in meeting the legal profession's sacred commitment to equal justice under the law.

DATED this 1st day of September, 2015, by the IDAHO PRO BONO COMMISSION, and its constituent members: SUPREME COURT OF IDAHO, UNITED STATES DISTRICT AND BANKRUPTCY COURTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO, IDAHO STATE BAR, IDAHO LAW FOUNDATION, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF LAW, AND CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW.