

THE STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT

SARA B. THOMAS
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE COURTS



451 W. STATE STREET
P. O. BOX 83720-0101
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0101
(208) 334-2246
FAX (208) 334-2146
EMAIL: sthomas@idcourts.net

For Immediate Release
September 27, 2016

Magistrate Judges and Trial Court Administrator Receive Idaho's Top Judicial Awards

Boise, ID – Suzanne Johnson, Trial Court Administrator for the Sixth Judicial District, Judge L. Mark Riddoch and Judge Barry Wood were honored for their service and commitment to providing fair and efficient justice to all Idahoans at the state's annual judicial conference. Johnson, Judge Riddoch and Judge Wood received the Kramer Award, George G. Granata Award and Legacy Award, respectively.

The Granata Award is presented each year to a trial judge who exemplifies the professionalism the late Judge George Granata became known for during his 20 years of judicial service. Judge Riddoch is the 17th recipient of this prestigious award.

Judge Riddoch is currently the longest sitting Magistrate Judge in Idaho. He continues to oversee cases for the Seventh Judicial District in Bonneville County. He was appointed to the bench in 1983. Throughout his career, he has not been afraid to take on the toughest cases and has focused much of his time on family law. In 2010, he initiated the first Domestic Violence High Intensity Treatment Court. It was the first domestic violence court in the state to also be recognized as a drug court. So far, 54 individuals have graduated from the program. Over the years, Judge Riddoch has become known for his fair and timely case management skills.

Johnson has worked in Idaho's courts for 38 years. She got her start as a deputy file clerk in the Bannock County Courthouse and held many roles within the clerk's office before being appointed trial court administrator for the Sixth Judicial District in 1994. Johnson is known as a team builder. She was instrumental in helping the state implement ISTARs, Idaho's first statewide court information database. Johnson is an advocate for problem-solving courts and has worked to ensure their success in the Sixth Judicial District. Her work earned her a fellowship from the Institute of Court Management in Washington, D.C., the leading organization in court administration.

The Kramer Award is named in honor of the late District Judge Douglas Kramer. Johnson is the 30th recipient of this award.

Former Fifth Judicial District Magistrate Judge Barry Wood is the second winner of the Idaho Magistrate Judges Association's Legacy Award. It was created to recognize a judge's dedicated and noteworthy leadership and service to their community, colleagues and citizens.

Judge Wood was honored for both his tenure on the bench and his service as the interim deputy administrative director of the courts. Over the years, he has become known for his steadfast leadership. Working as the Idaho Supreme Court's judicial liaison to Idaho legislature, Judge Wood has earned the respect of lawmakers and helped educate them about the important issues facing the courts. Judge Wood currently serves as one of Idaho's senior judges. In 2005, he was named the recipient of the Kramer award.

###