

For Immediate Release

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December 22, 2014

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Administrative Director of Idaho Courts to be hired after 2015 legislative session

Boise, ID – The Idaho Supreme Court announced Senior Justice Linda Copple Trout’s appointment as the interim administrative director of courts through the 2015 legislative session on Thursday. The court also announced Senior District Judge Barry Wood’s appointment as the interim deputy administrative director of the courts. Trout and Wood have been filling their interim roles since September when the previous administrative director, Patti Tobias, left to take a position with the National Center for State Courts.

Both Trout and Wood have a deep understanding of Idaho’s judicial system and both are well-respected within the community. Justice Trout was appointed to the state supreme court by Governor Cecil Andrus in 1992. She led Idaho’s entire judicial system for almost eight years as Chief Justice. Judge Wood has been with the Idaho judiciary since 1987, serving as a magistrate judge, district judge, and administrative district judge. “We are very fortunate to have Justice Trout and Judge Wood at the helm as we wait to find the perfect long-term candidate for this position,” said Chief Justice Roger Burdick. “They understand our state’s judicial needs and will be able to help us get our courts’ top priorities in front of our state lawmakers during the upcoming legislative session.”

The Idaho State Judicial Branch plans to reopen the candidate search for the next administrative director this spring. The search criteria will be expanded beyond a legal or court administration to encourage a broader pool of applicants who may have relevant experience outside the judicial system. A statutory position, the administrative director leads court services ranging from community and family justice services, intergovernmental relations, to trial court operations, and helps set the strategic direction of the Idaho Courts.

“We’ve had qualified applicants apply for this position. However, this process is about more than looking at someone’s resume and seeing if it checks all the boxes. We want to find a candidate who cares about Idaho the way we do and who will work hard to ensure our state’s judicial system is working the way it should for our citizens,” said Chief Justice Burdick.

Justice Trout and Judge Wood will remain in their roles until the administrative director position has been filled.

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