

For Immediate Release

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September 23, 2014

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Ada County Magistrate Judge, Trial Court Administrator Honored for Service to Idaho

Boise, ID – Ada County Magistrate Judge Russell Comstock and Linda Wright, the Trial Court Administrator for the Fifth Judicial District were honored with Idaho's top judiciary service awards Monday night. The awards were presented during the annual Idaho Judicial Conference.

Wright received the Douglas D. Kramer Award for her outstanding commitment to serving Idaho's judiciary and her community. She is the first full-time Trial Court Administrator for the Fifth Judicial District and has been in that role since 1996. Before her position with the Fifth Judicial District, she served as the Twin Falls County Elected Clerk.

Wright has made a reputation for herself as having a strong work ethic. As a single mother, she earned her bachelor's degree while working full-time and she hasn't slowed down since.

As a believer in problem-solving courts, Wright has helped to implement courts that help offenders address specific needs and promote better outcomes for not only the offender but also the victim and greater community. She played a large part in setting up Adult Drug Courts, Juvenile Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, Family Reunification Drug Court, DUI Court, Domestic Violence Court and Truancy Court throughout the Fifth Judicial District.

"Linda is passionate about the courts and always exhibits and promotes the highest level of professionalism and dedication in delivering access to fair and impartial justice in the Fifth Judicial District," said Judge Karen Lansing, who presented the awards Monday night. "She takes great pride in the work she does, has the upmost respect for the judicial system and instills those same traits in her staff."

Wright serves on numerous committees and boards throughout the state including the Drug and Mental Health Court Committee and the Children and Families in the Court Committee. Currently, she is a board member for BILLS Place, an organization committed to providing transitional housing to women who are involved in the criminal justice system but are working toward rehabilitation and becoming contributing members of their communities.

The Kramer Award is named in honor of the late District Judge Douglas Kramer. Wright is the 28th recipient of this prestigious award.

Judge Comstock was honored with the George G. Granata, Jr. Professionalism Award for his continued commitment to helping Idaho families. For the past 15 years, this award has been given to trial judges who exemplify the professionalism the late Judge Granata became known for during his 20 years of judicial service.

“Judge Comstock’s commitment to the justice system, his depth and breadth of knowledge of family law issues, his patient leadership among judges and lawyers, all enhanced by his incredible sense of humor, distinguish him among his peers,” said Judge Lansing. “He will have a lasting effect on the judiciary as well as the citizens of Idaho.”

Judge Comstock was a founding member of the Children and Families in the Court Committee, which was established in 2000 to ensure effective, timely and fair resolution of family law matters in Idaho. He has been serving as the committee’s chair since 2011.

In order to make family laws as clear and accessible as possible, Judge Comstock helped create the Idaho Rules of Family Law Procedure. This project was piloted in the Fourth Judicial District and is now implemented across the state. This year, Judge Comstock traveled to every judicial district to provide training to judges and attorneys on how to use the new rules.

Judge Comstock has been a member of the Idaho judiciary since 1995.

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