

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

*State of Idaho v. Tryon*, Docket No. 44489

In an appeal arising out of Canyon County, Appellant, Gracie Jean Tryon (“Tryon”), challenged her conviction for possession of a controlled substance. Over an objection by Tryon’s counsel, the district court admitted statements by a narcotics detective regarding the identity of the alleged controlled substance without offering corroborating laboratory tests that positively identified the substance. In a trial based solely on circumstantial evidence, Tryon was found guilty and sentenced by the district court. On appeal, Tryon argued that the State did not present sufficient evidence to support a conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

In a unanimous decision, the Idaho Supreme Court vacated Tryon’s sentence and judgment of conviction with instructions for the trial court to enter judgment of acquittal. The Court held that the State did not present substantial evidence to prove the identity of the substance beyond a reasonable doubt under Idaho Code section 37-2732(c)(1).