

## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

*Owens v. Ada County Board of Commissioners*

Docket No. 49537

Stephanie Owens appealed the district court's order affirming a decision by the Ada County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") by which it ordered Owens to reimburse the Board and the Catastrophic Health Care Costs Program (the "CAT Fund") for public moneys spent by the Board and the CAT Fund on behalf of Owens's two minor children. Owens argued that the Board's classification of her as an "applicant" under the Medical Indigency Act and the district court's affirmation of that classification were erroneous because she had never requested financial assistance from Ada County on behalf of her children. The Idaho Supreme Court agreed and concluded that the Board erred when it determined that Owens's compliance with a subpoena was sufficient to find that Owens had requested financial assistance. In so holding, the Idaho Supreme Court voided the Board's reimbursement orders and statutory liens that were imposed against Owens and acted as a cloud on her real property.

Because the Idaho Supreme Court held that the Board unreasonably conflated the definitions of "obligated person" and "applicant" under the Medical Indigency Act, it determined that Owens was entitled to attorney fees pursuant to Idaho Code section 12-117.

***\*\*\*This summary constitutes no part of the Court's opinion. It has been prepared by court staff for the convenience of the public.\*\*\****