2006

Annual Report of the

Idaho Supreme Court

Message from the Chief Justice

After thirty-eight years as a judge in Idaho I will retire sometime this coming summer. Having worked in every level of the court, serving during the tenures of seven governors, and enjoying the association with the Legislature during four decades I hope to bring forward some insight on the future of the courts in Idaho.

Last year the Legislature took an unprecedented step in adding four new magistrate judge positions and two new district judgeships. With the public pounding at the courthouse doors for resolution of its legal problems this was a tremendous step; together with the senior judge programs it translates into timely justice.

The agenda that the Court has this year is short, but the consequences are significant for the future. To the extent funding and personnel allow, the drug courts will continue to grow. There is a consensus on the validity of these programs both in terms of human values and in terms of economy. We will renew our requests for legislation to insure the stability of the judicial retirement fund. There have been no changes in the Court of Appeals since its creation. With a caseload over three and a half times greater than when it began it operates with the same number of judges. We have initiated a study to determine what may be necessary for the long term.

Recently we began analyzing the idea of moving the law library that the Court maintains. There is the potential to create something unique in the country – an apprentice program that opens the doors of the legal system to undergraduates who may learn and benefit – a system that allows advanced students at the law school to learn at the highest level. It is time to open our imaginations and the dialogue.

Last year the Legislature increased judicial salaries. We will ask for an increase this year. Judges routinely deal with caseloads that would have been unthinkable when I started as a judge, but it goes beyond numbers. They routinely must take a person's freedom, determine multi-million dollar probates, wrestle for solutions for abused children, fashion sentences for juvenile offenders, and on and on. And we are paid less than many deputy prosecutors, assistant city attorneys, law school professors, deans in universities – and those folks aren't overpaid.

The public expects judges to be intellectually superior, to isolate themselves from normal social contacts, and to forego normal business opportunities. The reality is that the pool of candidates that we want to see is shrinking. Professional requirements, caseloads, compensation, and giving up other financial opportunities, are all taking their toll.

Judges throughout the state have stepped up to the challenges of extreme social change, increasingly complex caseloads and the expanding expectations that people have for solutions from the courts. They are doing the best they can with what they have. Help them out the best you can. You'll be proud of them, and they will serve this State well.

GERALD F. SCHROEDER
Chief Justice

2006 Judicial District Highlights

1st Judicial District

- In October, Judge Lansing Haynes was appointed to the new District Judge position and Judge John Luster became the new Administrative District Judge.
- Kootenai County completed the installation of Digital Recording in 2006.
- Problem solving courts in the 1st District are growing rapidly and have seen steady increases in participant graduation.
- 1st and 2nd District Judges are collaborating in an ongoing project to mediate 1st District cases.
- District Court Assistance Officer/Family Court Services Officer, Janet Meserve, strengthened the Focus on Children parenting classes in Kootenai and Bonner Counties. Mental Health Professionals and judges are now facilitating the classes.

2nd Judicial District

- Magistrate Judges Gregory Kalbfleish and Jay Gaskill preside over the newly initiated Mental Health Court in Nez Perce County. Judge Jay Gaskill also presides over the Family Reunification Court in Nez Perce County. The court is for parents whose substance abuse and mental health issues triggered Child Protective Act proceedings and who are at risk of losing their parental rights.
- The Adult Felony Drug Court of the 2nd District completed the first year of a $200,000 grant from the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. This money extended the continuum of care in the district to permit residential treatment for clients and allowed the District to hire a drug court case manager.
- In the Caseload Mediation Project, District Judges John Stegner, Carl Kerrick, Jeff Brudie, and John Bradbury joined forces with District Judges from the 1st District in an ongoing effort to mediate 1st District cases.

3rd Judicial District

- The district welcomed three new judicial positions to Canyon County in 2006. Gem County Magistrate Judge Gordon W. Petrie filled the new District Judge position and Jerold W. Lee and George A. Southworth were appointed to the new Magistrate Judge positions.
- To accommodate the new judges, the Canyon County Courthouse went through an extensive remodel. The Canyon Count Annex in Nampa also went through renovation in order to expand the clerks' office, accommodate the new judge positions and add two new hearing rooms.
- To fill Judge Petrie's position as Gem County Magistrate Judge, the 3rd District Magistrates Commission hired Tyler Smith. Judge Smith assumed his new duties on November 6, 2006. Special recognition goes to the clerk's staff in Gem County for their patience and assistance to the numerous judges who provided coverage to Gem County while the position was vacant.

2006 Judicial District Highlights (cont.)

4th Judicial District

- Ada County Drug Court's successes include: 100 clients accepted into the program; 10 drug free babies born to women in the program; 11 participants obtained G.E.D's; 63 participated in Family Weekend; and 69 individuals graduated this year bringing the total number of graduates to over 400 since the drug court's inception. The court also implemented new treatment programs including courses on life skills, nutrition groups and boundaries.

- Family Court Services in Ada, Boise, and Elmore Counties focused on classes for parents going through divorce, paternity or modification court actions and cases. The classes assist parents in constructing a detailed parenting plan and recalculate child support to match the new parenting plan. Over 2,665 parents attended these classes and an estimated 2,423 children benefited.

- The Family Violence Court Grant Project works to support families struggling with child abuse, substance abuse and domestic violence by providing case coordination with the Department of Health and Welfare and Probation as well as using multidisciplinary approaches and comprehensive case management. Of the 53 families enrolled in the program, only two families reported instances of abuse during the three year program.

- Among the many accomplishments of the Mental Health Court in the 4th District, the court increased enrollment to 19 participants, located safe and sober housing for all participants in need of assistance, supported eight participants in locating work, and helped the 3rd District develop a mental health court.

5th Judicial District

- Jerome County purchased, renovated and opened a beautiful new courthouse. Justices Burdick and Jones presided over the ribbon cutting.

- The district hosted a Dutch-oven dinner for ten legislators and their spouses to discuss the Mental Health Court.

- Twin Falls County was awarded the Traffic Highway Safety Award Grant to implement a DUI Court; Judge Howard Smyser presided over the first DUI court in late November.

6th Judicial District

- Bannock County implemented the Domestic Violence/Battery Court under the supervision of Judge Robert Naftz. The court offers a weekly Empowerment Course on the dynamics and effects of domestic violence in addition to offering community referrals, safety-planning and assistance and options to allow no-contact orders to remain in place.

- The Drug/DUI courts, Juvenile Drug Courts, and Mental Health Courts in the 6th Judicial District graduated approximately 70 people.

- Bannock County and Caribou County are participating in the statewide Conservatorship/Guardian Pilot Project to review how the system protects the safety, assets, and overall needs of incapacitated individuals.

7th Judicial District

- The Butte and Custer County Misdemeanor/DUI Drug Court expanded to include ten participants. The Felony Mental Health Court expanded into the Upper Valley including Jefferson, Madison and Fremont Counties.

- Judge Michael Kennedy initiated the planning for a pilot regional Juvenile Mental Health Court to include Fremont, Madison, Jefferson and Bonneville Counties. Judge Scott Hansen of Bingham County and the 6th District ACT team started an Adult Mental Health Court in Blackfoot.

- Thanks to the help of Family Court Services and a Supreme Court domestic violence grant, Bonneville County now has a fully functional Domestic Violence Court.

- Lemhi County/City of Salmon received a Byrne Grant to implement an integrated community-based problem solving initiative to address the drug problems in Lemhi County.

Idaho Courts Mission Statement

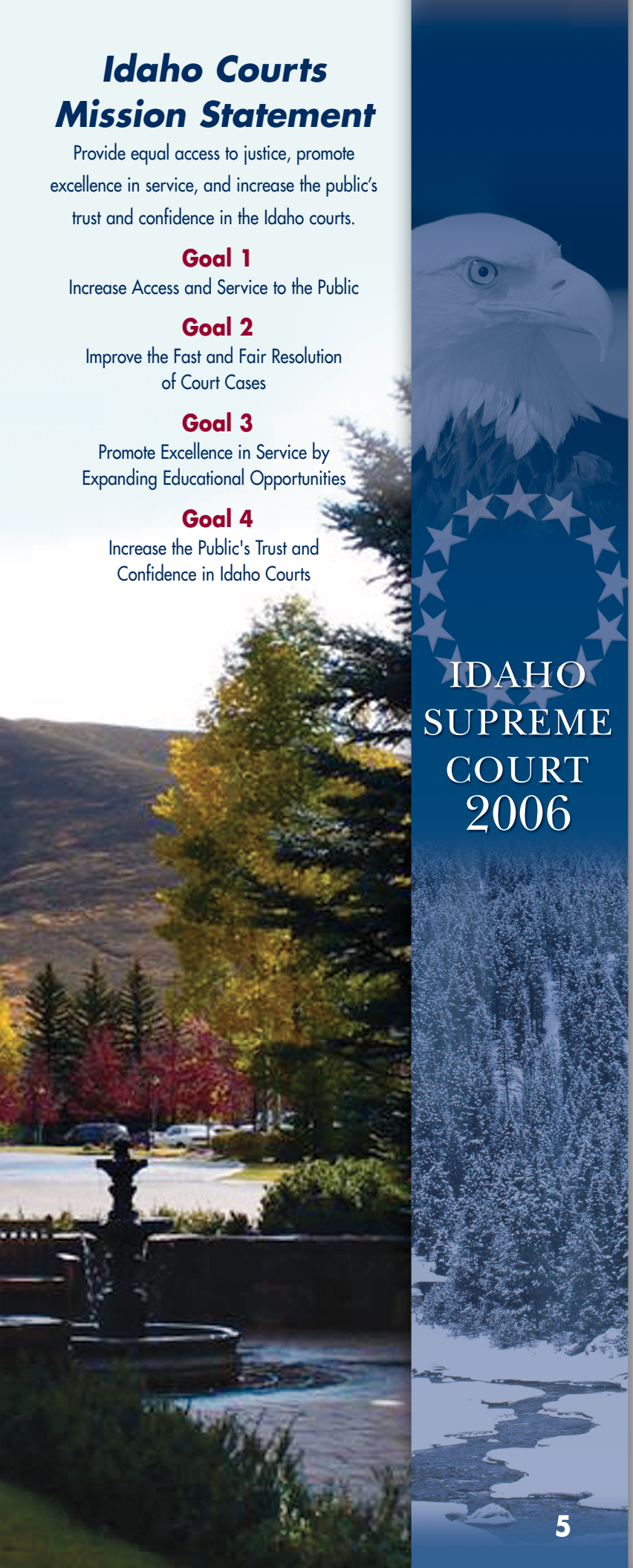
Provide equal access to justice, promote excellence in service, and increase the public's trust and confidence in the Idaho courts.

Goal 1
Increase Access and Service to the Public

Goal 2
Improve the Fast and Fair Resolution of Court Cases

Goal 3
Promote Excellence in Service by Expanding Educational Opportunities

Goal 4
Increase the Public's Trust and Confidence in Idaho Courts



IDAHO SUPREME COURT 2006

New Judges, Retirements, and Transitions in 2006

New Judges In 2006

1st Judicial District

Honorable Lansing Haynes
District Judge*
September 2006

Honorable William Harrigfeld
Magistrate Judge*
Ada County
October 2006

3rd Judicial District

Honorable Gordon Petrie
District Judge*
July 2006

Honorable George Hicks
Magistrate Judge
Elmore County
September 2006

Honorable Jerold Lee
Magistrate Judge*
Canyon County
August 2006

Honorable David Manweiler
Magistrate Judge
Ada County
February 2006

Honorable George Southworth
Magistrate Judge*
Canyon County
August 2006

7th Judicial District

Honorable Stephen Clark
Magistrate Judge
Lemhi County
January 2007

Honorable Tyler Smith
Magistrate Judge
Gem County
November 2006

Honorable Penny Jo Stanford
Magistrate Judge
Clark County
November 2006

4th Judicial District

Honorable Theresa Gardunia
Magistrate Judge*
Ada County
October 2006

Honorable Darren Simpson
District Judge
January 2007

**New position in 2006*

Judges Leaving Office In 2006

4th Judicial District

Honorable Aaron Bazzoli
Magistrate Judge
Elmore County
June 2006

Honorable John Vehlow
Magistrate Judge
Ada County
January 2006

7th Judicial District

Honorable Jerry Meyers
Magistrate Judge
Lemhi County
January 2007

Honorable William Hollerich
Magistrate Judge
Clark County
October 2006

Honorable James Herndon
District Judge
December 2006

Recognition and Awards

Judges Mitchell and St. Clair Honored

At an early 2006 Mental Health Planning Council meeting in Boise, Judges John Mitchell and Richard St. Clair were honored for their part in developing mental health courts. Congratulations and thank you!!

Idaho Women of the Year

Justice Linda Copple Trout and Judge Karen Lansing were recognized as Idaho Women of the Year by the Idaho Business Review. The award is given to honor women who are successful leaders in their professions, mentors to other women, and give back to their communities. Awards were presented at a dinner in February of 2006 in Boise. Congratulations to both Justice Trout and Judge Lansing on this recognition.

Justice Eismann and Judge Marano Recognized

The Idaho State Substance Abuse Executive Council recognized Supreme Court Justice Daniel Eismann and Kootenai County Magistrate Judge Eugene Marano for their leadership and dedication to effectively dealing with substance abuse through Idaho's drug court efforts.

Idaho Wildlife Federation Honors Judge Peart

The Idaho Wildlife Federation named Judge James Peart the 2006 Magistrate Judge of the Year, for his personal interest in Idaho's wildlife resources, his compassionate approach to genuinely remorseful violators, and his complete intolerance for those who willfully destroy Idaho's wildlife. The presentation was made at the Federation's April banquet in Boise.

Rep. Wills Receives Leadership Award

At the Idaho Conference on Alcohol and Drug Dependency (ICADD) in May 2006, Chief Justice Gerald Schroeder presented the Drug Court Leadership Award to Representative Rich Wills of Glenns Ferry in recognition of his efforts in the Idaho legislature on behalf of the Drug Court and the Mental Health Court and for his continuing membership on the coordinating committee for the Courts.

Howard Receives 2006 Public Sector Recognition Award

Viki Howard, Coordinator for Children & Families in the Courts, received the 2006 Public Sector Recognition Award at the Two Days in June conference presented by the Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance. The award acknowledges outstanding service by a criminal justice agency, office or individual exhibiting excellence in several areas while implementing or maintaining resources for victims of crime.

Judge Brent Moss Honored

Judge Brent Moss received a Community Health Leader award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for his work facilitating access to mental health treatment in the community for seriously mentally ill offenders.

Judges Named "Pioneers in Mediation"

Judge Mark Ingram was named a "Pioneer in Mediation" at the Idaho Mediation Association's annual conference in Boise in May, 2006. Pioneers in Mediation awards also went to Judge Patricia Young and Judge Roger Cockerille, both in the 4th Judicial District. The Pioneer in Mediation award recipients were selected on the merits of their contributions to the development and implementation of mediation or conflict resolution programs.

Judge Smith Honored

6th District Judge Randy Smith was honored with a distinguished service award from the Eastern Idaho Chapter of the J. Reuben Clark Law Society in July 2006. The chapter periodically selects a person in the legal profession who has serviced his or her community in a way that is above and beyond the norm. Chapter chair Steve Tuft of Burley said Judge Smith is "an awfully good judge" in general, having modeled professionalism and courtesy as a judge. Particularly, Tuft said, his mediation in lawsuits reflects the spirit of the Small Lawsuit Resolution Act, a bill that was designed to reduce the cost of litigation and speed the resolution of conflicts that have resulted in a lawsuit.

Judge Wilper Receives Jefferson Award

4th District Court Judge Ronald J. Wilper was recognized with the Jefferson Award in April 2006, for his public service efforts and dedication to Idaho's drug courts. Judge Wilper spent the past four years volunteering up to 15 hours a week preparing for and presiding over the Ada County Drug Court. The Jefferson Award was established by The American Institute for Public Service, and is nationally recognized. On the local level, media sponsors solicit nominations of people who work to better their communities through volunteer and community services. KBCI CBS 2, Washington Trust Bank and the Idaho Statesman recognized Judge Wilper as April's recipient of the Jefferson Award.

Judge Stegner Receives Thank You

Judge John Stegner received a letter of recognition from Dr. S. Alex Stalcup, Medical Director of the New Leaf Treatment Center in Lafayette, California for his role in setting up a workshop in the 2nd Judicial District in September 2006. Dr. Stalcup said that Judge Stegner's drug court is "among the very best I've ever seen…not only from the perspective of their competence and professionalism, but from their compassion and humanity as well. Your work serves as a national model of how well a Drug Court can run. It is obvious to me that your personal qualities and leadership make that happen." Dr. Stalcup is a nationally recognized expert on the physical ramifications of addiction.

Budget and Legislative Priorities

The Idaho Supreme Court proposed three budget priorities for the 2006-2007 legislative session.

Restructuring the compensation system for a 21st Century Judiciary remains a top priority. Despite adjustments in salaries in 2006, judicial salaries in Idaho dramatically lag behind those in other western states and throughout the nation. It is necessary to close this gap in order to attract the most qualified applicants, retain judges with a commitment to public service excellence, ensure outstanding judicial leadership, and maintain high standards of productivity.

As Idaho grows, so does the caseload. Adding flexible resources where the needs are the greatest in order to ensure that court cases are heard timely and fairly is the second legislative priority. In 2006, the Legislature responded by adding new positions to help handle the expanding caseload. Rather than asking for more positions in 2007, the court is requesting additional funds to expand the use of Senior Judges and to ask sitting judges to travel to other districts.

The third priority is to expand the cost-effective sentencing alternatives available to judges. Working with the Governor's Office, the Department of Correction, the Department of Health and Welfare, Juvenile Corrections, and the counties, the Court intends to make specific proposals regarding cost-effective alternatives to the increasing expense of prison stays, juvenile detention, juvenile commitment, and psychiatric hospital stays. Expanding the capacity of Family Courts, Drug Courts, and Mental Health Courts would provide short-term and long-term reduction in costs to the state and local units of government.

Court Forms On The Web Offer Guidance

For many people, filling out simple court forms without legal advice can often lead to errors and frustration. Under the direction of former Ada County Magistrate Judge Michael Dennard, the Court Assistance Director, a joint effort of the Idaho courts and the Idaho Legal Aid Society aims to reduce the mistakes people make in filling out court forms by providing a website that guides them through the process. Idahoans who want to file court forms without an attorney in many non-criminal court cases can access the forms through the Idaho State Court's website at http://www.courtselfhelp.idaho.gov/.

Granata Award Posthumously Presented to Judge William Hart

Former Administrative District Judge for the Fifth District Judge William Hart, who passed away in 2005, is the 2006 recipient of the George G. Granata Jr. Award for Professionalism. The award honors individuals for their contributions to the Idaho Judicial system, the impact of their professionalism and their status as a role model. Linda Wright, trial court administrator in the Fifth Judicial District nominated Judge Hart saying, "there are few who would equal his widespread ability to influence and be an inspiration to so many."

Justice Jones, chair of this year's Awards Committee, made the presentation during the annual Judicial/Legislative Dinner for Legislative Leadership, the members of the Joint Appropriations-Finance Committee, and the House and Senate Judiciary committee. Judge William Hart's son acknowledged the honor for his late father.

Kramer Award Given to David Navarro

David Navarro is this year's recipient of the Kramer Award for Excellence. As Clerk of the District Court, Ex-Officio Auditor and Recorder for Ada County, Navarro was recognized by the Idaho Judiciary for his exemplary work in the administration of Idaho's judicial system. Trial court administrator Larry Reiner and Administrative District Judge Darla Williamson of the Fourth Judicial District nominated Navarro for the Kramer Award. Each applauded Navarro's ability to resolve complex problems, "He is an innovator—always seeking a smarter, faster and less expensive way of doing business."

The Kramer Award is presented to an individual based upon their contributions to improving the administration of justice in Idaho, the impact of their contributions and their status as a role model. The award is named for former Blaine County District Judge Douglas Kramer who was widely recognized during his years on the bench for his contributions to the improvement of the administration of the Idaho courts.

Drug Court and Mental Health Courts Successes

As a result of the extraordinary partnership of all three branches of state government, Idaho now has 46 drug and mental health courts and Idaho is 2nd in the nation for the number of problem-solving courts per capita. With expanded legislative funding in 2006, mental health courts now reach every Judicial District in the state.

At the close of 2006, adult and juvenile drug courts and mental health courts supervised a total of 1,568 offenders. Collectively, these courts supervised an average of 888 offenders each month.

The savings found through drug courts are significant. The annual cost to maintain a felony offender in community drug court averages $6,550. This is compared to the annual cost of an Idaho prison inmate of $19,871 or $10,585 for an offender placed in a community work center.

Of the adult felony offenders facing a prison sentence who were alternately supervised by drug and mental health courts last year, 82% either maintained compliance with court requirements and remained in the program, or successfully met all requirements and graduated. This success rate provides real cost savings for Idaho taxpayers.

In the 7th Judicial District FY 2006 participants in the Mental Health Court reduced their jail days by 84% and their psychiatric hospital days by 98%.

The Bonneville County Mental Health Court received national recognition as one of five learning sites to provide guidance for new mental health courts nationwide by the Council of State Governments and the US Department of Justice.

This year, Idaho had 28 drug-free babies born to women participating in drug courts.

Juvenile drug courts supervised 228 young offenders this past year, and graduated 35 from the program. Despite recent program expansions, the Idaho Department of Corrections estimates an immediate need to accommodate an additional 350 felony drug court participants and counties need room for an additional 75 misdemeanor defendants. The mental health courts, it is estimated, need another 50 adult slots.

New North Idaho Water Adjudication

On September 29, 2006, Chief Justice Gerald F. Schroeder signed a provisional order giving the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court of the 5th Judicial District jurisdiction over water rights issues involving the Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Basin, the Palouse River Basin, and the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille River Basins. The presiding judge of the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court, a position currently held by District Judge John M. Melanson, will be the presiding judge. Documents relating to these proceedings will be filed with the clerk of the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court in Twin Falls.

Family Court Services Serve Record Numbers

Since 2000, Idaho courts continue to report significant developments in the court related services devoted to helping families reach long-term resolutions of challenging cases involving children and families. In 2006, over 66,500 Idahoans and almost 12,000 children benefited from Idaho courts' innovative services.

- Families in Idaho benefited from innovative programs including the Family Law Arbitration Pilot Project, education programs specialized to meet the unique needs of the family, Interim Parenting Time Consultations with mental health professionals, and classes for children who are experiencing family changes.

- Court Assistance and Family Court Services promote access to the courts, reduce conflict, protect children and increase positive outcomes for families. In 2006, over 63,918 Idahoans received coordinated services through courts assistance offices, family court service coordinators, parent education, mediation, and other direct services. Family Court Services reached almost 23,000 Idahoans in the courts and the Court Assistance offices served nearly 37,000 people in the state.

- Of those families that participated in mediation services, 70% of the tracked families reached a full or partial agreement.

- Three new integrated family violence courts started in Bannock, Bonneville, and Jefferson counties thanks to a grant from the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women.

- The Ada County Family Violence Court received national attention in 2006, when independent researchers determined that 48 out of 53 families gained stability as a result of the project and their children were allowed to remain in the parent's home.

Trial Court Administrators Attend Caseflow Workshop

A joint Idaho/Utah workshop on Fundamental Issues of Caseflow Management was held on June 2006 in Midvale, Utah. The workshop was a terrific opportunity for trial court administrators from Utah and Idaho to meet and share experiences, discuss caseflow management issues in their respective courts, and devise practical solutions to take back to their districts. Participants discussed calendar management principles, leadership/vision, consulting with stakeholders, court supervision of cases, setting standards and goals, controlling continuances, early dispositions, differentiated case management, information systems, managing and implementing change, and court culture. The program was a great success! Plans are underway for a joint program in 2007.

Judicial Education Changes

There are two newly scheduled multi-disciplinary events added to the slate of educational opportunities for members of the Idaho judiciary which will be held in conjunction with either the annual District Judges Seminar and/or Magistrate Judges Institute.

Multi-Disciplinary Courts Institute (DMCI)
A Multi-Disciplinary Drug and Mental Health Courts Institute will be held the two days prior to the District Judges Seminar and will involve both the judiciary and the professional communities involved in drug and mental health courts.

Annual Children and Families Institute (CFI)
This event will be held the two days prior to the Magistrate Judges Institute and will involve both the judiciary and the professional communities dealing with child protection, children and families in the courts, juvenile court (other than juvenile drug courts), domestic violence, etc. This CFI will become an annual event and will feature well known and substantive speakers.

Child Protection Grants Awarded

The Supreme Court applied for and was awarded two new federal child protection court improvement grants. One grant will fund improvements in technology and the other, development of a long-range curriculum to educate judges, attorneys and other professionals who work in the area of child protection.

Former Administrative Director of the Courts Retires

On October 24, 2006, a retirement ceremony was held at the Idaho Supreme Court for Carl F. Bianchi, who served the Court as Administrative Director of the Courts from 1973-1993 and Director, Legislative Services from 1993-2006. Speakers included Chief Justice Gerald Schroeder, Vice-Chief Justice Linda Copple Trout, Justice Daniel Eismann, Justice Roger Burdick and Justice Jim Jones. Chief Justice Schroeder said of Carl:

"...What we got was an organizer and a high-minded visionary determined to make Idaho courts the centerpiece in a national stage. You succeeded, and everybody who seeks timely justice within our courts has benefited. You were the architect of a system that became a model for other states. You embedded within our institution the philosophy of improvement – the job is never done, the bar must always move higher."

First Administrative Office of the Courts and Chief Justice (left to right): Larry Arguinchona, Robert Hamlin, retired Chief Justice Robert Bakes, Carl Bianchi, and Carroll Ross.

Senior Judges

In 2006, 32 Senior Judges worked 1,413 days. A Senior Judge is a Judge or Justice who leaves office or retires and is then given the designation "Senior Judge" by the Supreme Court. These judges may sit as a judge in a district or county court, with the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals. While serving under assignment, Senior Judges have all the judicial powers and duties of a regularly qualified judge of the court to which the senor judge is assigned.

JUSTICE GERALD F. SCHROEDER
Chief Justice

JUSTICE LINDA COPPLE TROUT
Vice Chief Justice

JUSTICE DANIEL T. EISMANN
Justice

JUSTICE ROGER S. BURDICK
Justice

JUSTICE JIM JONES
Justice

2006 Administrative District Judges

Hon. John Luster - 1st Judicial District
Hon. Carl Kerrick - 2nd Judicial District
Hon. Gregory Culet - 3rd Judicial District
Hon. Darla Williamson - 4th Judicial District
Hon. Barry Wood - 5th Judicial District
Hon. Randy Smith - 6th Judicial District
Hon. James Herndon - 7th Judicial District

2006 Trial Court Administrators

Karlene Behringer - 1st Judicial District
Steven Caylor - 2nd Judicial District
Dan Kessler - 3rd Judicial District
Larry Reiner - 4th Judicial District
Linda Wright - 5th Judicial District
Suzanne Johnson - 6th Judicial District
Burton Butler - 7th Judicial District

Contributing

Patricia Tobias - Administrative Director of the Courts
John Peay - Director of Information Services
Corrie Keller - Director of Court Services
Shirley Throop - Executive Assistant

Senior Justice Wayne Kidwell of the Idaho Supreme Court has graciously supplied the majority of the photographs that appear in the Court's 2006 Annual Report.

Color photos on 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10, provided by Roland Gammill

Color photos on 5, 11, 12, 13, provided by Shirley Throop

Caseload Highlights 2006

- During 2006, 1,000 appeals were filed with the Idaho Supreme Court. Compared to calendar year 2005, there were 57 fewer appeals filed in 2006.

- A total of 20,992 cases were filed in the district courts of Idaho, an increase of 1.5% from 2005. The total number of district court cases in 2006 indicates a 26% increase in filings from ten years ago.

- Civil filings in the district court increased when compared to 2005. Statewide, there were 7,103 civil cases filed in 2006, up 5% from 2005.

- For the first time in ten years, the number of felony drug cases filed in Idaho's district court declined. The number reported in 2006 dropped by 8.7% or 409 cases.

- During 2006, a record 782 felony DUI cases were reported, an increase of 26% over the number filed in 2005.

- For the fourth consecutive year, there was a drop in new domestic violence petitions. In 2006 4,955 new domestic violence petitions were filed, which is 8.6% fewer than were filed in 2005.

- Misdemeanor DUI filings were up substantially during 2006 when compared to 2005. A total of 11,308 misdemeanor DUI cases were filed in the magistrate court division which represents a 14.7% increase over the number filed during 2005.

- During 2006, slightly fewer small claims cases were filed than in 2005. Across Idaho, 19,623 small claims cases were filed, representing a 1.6% decrease from 2005.

- More juvenile cases entered the courts in 2006 than in the previous four years. During 2006, there were 13,669 juvenile petitions filed, which is up 5.2% over the previous year.

- Reversing a single year trend, the number of infraction citations filed during 2006 increased by 2.5% from the number filed the year before. In Idaho, 221,276 infraction citations were filed during 2006.

District Court Cases Filed

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% change 2005-2006	% change 1999-2006
Civil	5,909	5,881	6,759	7,274	7,198	7,107	6,761	7,103	+5%	+20.2%
Criminal	11,126	11,118	11,262	11,245	12,227	12,591	13,208	13,145	-.5%	+18.1%
Special	465	378	550	590	594	660	714	688	-13.7%	+47.9%
Total	17,500	17,377	18,571	19,109	20,019	20,358	20,683	20,992	+1.5%	+20.0%

Magistrate Division Cases Filed

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% change 2005-2006	% change 1999-2006
Civil	69,809	72,797	74,503	79,780	83,137	85,374	79,943	83,920	+4.9%	+20.2%
Criminal	151,048	144,637	136,594	128,691	126,462	127,937	127,546	136,760	+7.2%	-9.5%
Infractions	227,315	235,453	243,295	231,894	221,848	216,406	215,839	221,276	+2.5%	-2.7%
Juvenile	13,725	13,831	13,725	12,508	12,379	12,819	12,991	13,669	+5.2%	-0.4%
Special	14,731	15,009	15,179	15,353	15,671	16,307	16,550	15,853	-4.5%	+7.6%
Total	476,628	481,727	483,296	468,226	459,497	458,843	452,869	471,478	+4.1%	-1.2%