

IDAHO BUSINESS REVIEW LEADERS IN LAW 2019



Presented by

University of Idaho

College of Law

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Associate

Brent Wilson

Up & Coming

Mike Stoddard

Partner

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NOTE FROM THE IDAHO BUSINESS REVIEW



Some people have a distaste for lawyers; they think of them as thriving on conflict or taking advantage of misery. I like a good lawyer joke as much as the

next person, but I hold a fundamentally opposite view of the profession.

I believe there will always be conflict and disagreement (or the potential for them) in any society, but that good attorneys use logic, rhetoric and scholarship to make those disagreements much more civil, and their outcomes much more equitable and consistent.

The attorneys and legal professionals

we celebrate in these pages have done an excellent job of proving my point. Their work of holding us all to the rule of law is vital if our society is to thrive in these uncertain times.

The men and women you'll read about are doing good work in a variety of disciplines and locales. We highlight an incredible paralegal, for example, who keeps her practice running and functions as a friend and listening ear to clients when they first seek counsel.

We also honor a justice from Idaho's Supreme Court who is known not only for his beautiful singing voice but also his intellectual integrity, attention to detail and commitment to justice.

In addition, we tell the stories of men and women working in family law, real estate law, environmental law, corporate

law and more. They touch all parts of our community, and we are better for it.

I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with our honorees as I worked with my team of freelancers to put together this publication. I am inspired to increase my own commitment to civility, integrity and good works, and I hope our readers will be inspired to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Palmer'.

Rebecca Palmer
Special Sections Editor

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Congratulations to the 2019 Leaders in Law honorees. The University of Idaho College of Law is honored to be a presenting sponsor for the seventh year in a row, and we are proud to see many of our family among those recognized.

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The University of Idaho continues a tradition of excellence with its statewide mission of delivering an affordable, public, legal education. As part of that mission, the College of Law has developed a focused, high-quality curriculum, offered in its entirety at our Moscow and Boise locations.

Jerrold A. Long
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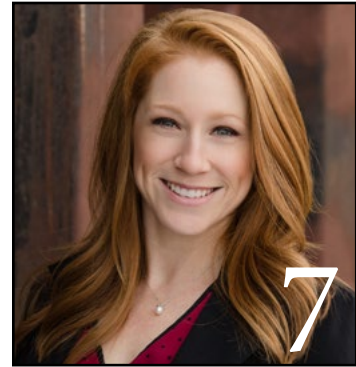
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Unsung Hero



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Up & Coming Lawyer



Anthony Shallat
Up & Coming Lawyer



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PRESENTED BY



University of Idaho
College of Law

Briana Stockdale

Unsung
hero

A humble mentor Key employee, dedicated leader and trusted assistant

By Alx Stevens

Special to the Idaho Business Review

Briana Stockdale didn't go into law thinking she'd stick with it.

After graduating high school, she took a part-time entry level file clerk position, preparing to go to school for accounting.

"(If) something needed to be served on another law firm, and she'd go there and maybe they were closed, she'd find a way to call," says Mischelle Fulgham, with Lukins & Annis. "So the lawyers learned 'OK, this is a person who's pretty smart ... she's doing these low-level assignments but when there's a problem, she always gets it handled.'"

Stockdale says she absorbed as much as possible and, while going to school for paralegal studies, worked her way up.

"I just realized it was something that would fit me very well, and that I would enjoy doing," says Stockdale.

"I'm really glad I had that opportunity and actually seized (it)," she adds.

The key right-hand person

Stockdale's involvement expanded when she became a legal assistant and paralegal to Fulgham, a partner with Lukins & Annis. In addition to organizing files and calming clients, Stockdale aided Fulgham in her role as First District Bar president.

"This is the person (who) gets things done," says Fulgham, "regardless if she's dealing with the menu for a continuing legal education presentation I'm putting on or whether she's dealing with a \$5 million lawsuit."

Stockdale was there to help when Fulgham had two children and was on maternity leave. She worked part-time from home, juggling client and mom duties.

"You've got to have a key right-hand

person and that was her," says Fulgham. "(I hope) that everyone she works for appreciates her as much as she deserves."

Stockdale is now working for Smith + Malek as a paralegal and firm administrator. The days and weeks vary with preparing and filing paperwork and being available to answer any question an employee might have. The most important part of her job, Stockdale says, is attention to detail. And her peers commend her for just that.

The most enjoyable part, she says, is helping attorneys with trial prep.

"You're in there with them sitting next to them and helping them get everything together and organized so they can be successful when they go to trial," Stockdale says. "I get to impart all of my knowledge that I've accumulated in the 10 years I've been doing it, so I think being able to teach them and watching them be successful is really rewarding."

Caitlin Elizabeth O'Brien



Up & Coming
Lawyer

Making a difference through law Providing opportunity to change the world

By Ryan Lowery

Special to the Idaho Business Review

When Caitlin Elizabeth O'Brien began college at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, majoring in psychology, she hadn't considered a career in law.

"I thought I wanted to be a clinical psychologist, and started down that path of wanting to get my Ph.D.," she says.

After graduating, she went to work in the psychology field, but quickly realized it was not the path she wanted for her life.

She began searching for a new job and applied to become a paralegal at a firm in Coeur d'Alene. She was hired, and though the job was only supposed to be a temporary position, the firm ended up hiring her as a full-time employee.

The job was fun, O'Brien says, and it led her to wanting a career in law.

"I thought: I can do this. It's really fun,

and I like the intellectual challenges," O'Brien says.

She went to law school at Gonzaga, clerked for a firm in Spokane and did an externship with the Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings, which familiarized her with the health practice from the administrative side. During her clerkship, O'Brien also worked on a lot of defense for insurance companies, something that left her feeling unfulfilled.

"I liked litigation, but I didn't like only working for insurance companies," she says. "I felt like I was selling my soul a little bit."

When she joined her current firm, Smith + Malek, O'Brien was able to combine and use all the experience she had gained over the years.

"I realized I really like the practice of health care, and I felt like I could make a big difference, but on the front end, being proactive and preventing problems,

and helping companies navigate risk management," she says. "I work for a great firm that allows me to develop a practice of law that can change the world."

At Smith + Malek, O'Brien works with federally qualified health centers, helping small health centers that often do not have in-house counsel.

"I went into law because I wanted to change the world," she says. "I like working with health centers, and different health care organizations, because they're also changing the world: they're changing the practice of medicine for the better."

O'Brien and her husband have two daughters, and she says one of the best things about her current position is the flexibility Smith + Malek offers.

"Not only do I have the flexibility to put my family first, but to focus on an area of law that is really changing the world," O'Brien says.

Anthony Shallat

Up & Coming
Lawyer

Advocacy, entrepreneurship and preservation

At the junction of history, technology and community advancement

By Rebecca Palmer
Idaho Business Review

Anthony Shallat started his career in politics, but soon moved to civil rights and white collar fraud litigation with Angstman Johnson before joining Fisher Hudson in downtown Boise in 2019.

Today, he is focused on being a local entrepreneur and on advocating for his clients. By all measures, he's thriving on both fronts.

Shallat first made his mark on Boise with a lawsuit against Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), which has since rebranded itself as CoreCivic. He represented inmates who had been injured in a brutal gang stabbing at the company's private prison.

During discovery, he explains, he found significant corporate and white collar fraud. At trial, a jury found that his clients' rights had indeed been violated.

At Fisher Hudson, Shallat is growing his stable of clients while building up the firm's

brand through marketing efforts, which he volunteered to deploy himself.

He has represented a beer distributor, a publicly traded company, local real estate investors, homeowners involved in real estate disputes and even an e-scooter company.

Shallat, who is known for his propensity to dive deeply into new topics on a regular basis, has also become an expert in technology law. Last year, he organized the Idaho Bar's first-ever continuing education course focused on cryptocurrency law. He also represents local cryptocurrencies and regularly writes about new developments in the field on his firm's blog.

He's fairly new to Fisher Hudson, but Shallat has already found friends and earned respect among his colleagues.

"I think he'll be one of the long-term leaders there, and we all are really grateful that he joined our firm," says Clare Thibeau, who worked with him when he first joined and has since become the founder of Impresaria, a business consulting firm.

"He has an energy about him that I really enjoy — it's fun to be around him," Thibeau says. "It feels like he's taking care of business in a great way."

Off the clock, Shallat focuses on historic and environmental preservation. He is the founder of Keep Idaho Public, which uses proceeds from apparel sales to benefit public lands. He also serves on the Boise Historic Preservation Commission, where he has worked to save a number of historic homes in the East Main Historic District from demolition.

He calls his work with technology, on one hand, and with preservation, on the other, an interesting juxtaposition. But it's one he hopes will serve Boise well now and into the future.

"I see some potential challenges with all the population growth coming in here and I feel like I have the opportunity to bridge the divide between historic, old Boise and 2020 Boise, and helping our communities kinda co-exist," he says.

Cora Whitney



Up & Coming
Lawyer

Dedication from an early age Carving her own path while following her father's lead

By Ryan Lowery

Special to the Idaho Business Review

From the age of 12, Cora Whitney knew she wanted to practice law.

"My dad is a judge, so I grew up watching him in court," she says. "I really enjoyed that, and it inspired me to go into law."

Although her new aspirations derailed plans made by the 11-year-old version of herself to become a ballerina, Whitney continued to pursue a career in law throughout high school, throughout her time at Washington State University and then at Gonzaga University School of Law.

Whitney admits that following in her father's footsteps is a bit stereotypical, but she says her father is one of the most outgoing, welcoming people she knows, and his philosophy to be the most prepared person in the room has driven her work ethic.

After receiving her law degree, Whitney began her career at a large corporate law firm in Spokane, Washington, where she practiced for more than five years. But when a friend from law school told her about an opening at Smith + Malek, Whitney says the decision was an easy one to make.

"I love the people that I work with, and I love the opportunity to work each day to make the world a better place," Whitney says.

Her role at Smith + Malek allows Whitney the opportunity to mentor other women too, something she says is very rewarding.

"Women have a hard enough time competing in a male-dominated field; we should and can be inspirations to each other to help us all succeed," she says.

"To see women I helped to influence, even in a small way, succeed in making the legal profession better is all I can hope for in my career," she adds.

Lisa K. Moline, an attorney at Smith + Malek, is one of the women Whitney has mentored. Moline says Whitney's mentoring extends well beyond her knowledge of law.

"She mentors me on how to be a good attorney and community leader. This includes navigating the balance of family obligations and work commitments, as well as the balance of a law practice and community involvement," Moline says. "In short, I am a better attorney because of (her)."

Whitney also hopes to make the world a better place for her daughter and to leave a legacy of which she can be proud.

"Right now, I spend almost all of my time outside of work playing with my 1-year-old daughter," Whitney says. "I believe that you can be both a good mom and good attorney. Although it's hard to do, it's what I strive to do every single day."

Brent R. Wilson

Up & Coming
Lawyer

Making the complex understandable

Passionate about helping clients navigate bankruptcy law

By **Lis Stewart**

Special to the Idaho Business Review

Brent Wilson believes in approaching a client's problems as his own.

"It can add a perspective (to) see different solutions out there that you wouldn't actually see if you were looking at it from an outsider's point of view," he says.

Wilson uses this approach in his work as an associate attorney at Hawley Troxell in Boise, where he focuses on bankruptcy law.

Wilson grew up in southern Indiana and earned an undergraduate degree from Indiana University Bloomington. After working for several years post-grad as an insurance adjuster, Wilson enrolled in the UIC John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

Until law school, Wilson had always assumed he would go into criminal law. However, he was introduced to bankruptcy law as a student and found his passion, completing an externship for a bankruptcy

judge. From there, he worked for the U.S. Trustee Program for the Northern District of Illinois and Wisconsin, which administers bankruptcy cases for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Bankruptcy law is a very complex and personal practice where you can provide a lot of relief, Wilson explains.

"It's kind of a dynamic, shifting-type law where things can change very drastically and dramatically for people in bankruptcy, and I like to be on that side of things," he says. "It makes a big impact on the people you are working with and working for."

While in law school, Wilson met his wife Amy, a fellow lawyer who is from Star, Idaho. In 2012, they moved to Boise, where Wilson clerked for Judge Jim D. Pappas in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Idaho. In 2015, he started at Hawley Troxell.

Sheila Schwager, a partner at Hawley Troxell who heads the practice group for creditors rights and bankruptcy, praises

Wilson's work ethic.

"He is very motivated and works extremely hard at anything he does," Schwager says. "He doesn't do anything halfway."

Aside from his work at Hawley Troxell, Wilson devotes time to providing legal advice, pro bono, for the Idaho State and Federal Bar's bankruptcy hotline. He also authors articles for the Idaho State Bar's Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section, as well as for Hawley Troxell's banking and business blog.

It is this work of teaching and helping others understand the ins and outs of bankruptcy that help him be a better lawyer, Wilson says. Bankruptcy can be an emotional time for a client, he adds, but having a lawyer who understands the process and possible outcomes can help people manage expectations and achieve the best possible solution.

Sara Berry



Associate

Leading by action

Taking on pro bono cases to help immigrants

By Pamela Manson

Special to the Idaho Business Review

Sara Berry has been interested in the law profession since she was a teenager. After graduating from the University of New Mexico in 2002 with a degree in Spanish and criminology, she went to work as a legal secretary in the Ada County Prosecutor's Office.

Berry, now an associate at Holland & Hart, was asked one day to interpret a victim-impact statement of a grieving Spanish-speaking mother at a sentencing. The woman's boyfriend had beaten her 2-year-old child to death, and translating her story was heart-wrenching but also gratifying.

"It was satisfying to let the court know how this crime affected her," Berry says.

That experience and her desire to help

people who might fall through the cracks of the legal system prompted Berry to earn a law degree at the University of Idaho in 2007. She served as a law clerk to Judge Stephen Trott of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and for Judge Sergio Gutierrez of the Idaho Court of Appeals, and then worked at Stoel Rives for four years.

Berry's practice at Holland & Hart focuses on commercial litigation. She also takes on pro bono cases, many of them to help immigrants who are victims of crime to get visas to remain in the United States. Many of these clients are victims of domestic abuse, she says.

"Frequently, abusers will use their lack of legal status against them, and this is one way to help them," Berry says.

Berry also represented two Iraqi women for free in a suit over delays in obtaining their green cards, and the two eventually

were sworn in as citizens as a result of the litigation.

In another case, she was recruited to be part of a team representing two people who were shot in 2010 by Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies. The deputies appealed a damages award to the U.S. Supreme Court, and Berry assisted in argument preparation and attended the oral arguments in 2017. The award was upheld.

In addition to the pro bono cases, Berry serves on the Idaho Botanical Garden board. She has helped in the planning process for a new strategic plan and is active in raising funds for the organization.

Mary York, a partner at Holland & Hart, notes in a letter of recommendation that Berry has won a number of awards for her pro bono work and writes, "As with everything Sara does, she lives what she believes in and leads by action."

Jillian Caires



Associate

Advancing the practice

Educating, serving and advocating in tribal and real estate law

By Alx Stevens

Special to the Idaho Business Review

Fulfillment and success are more than just cases won for Jillian Caires.

Her peers know her for her efforts outside the courtroom, including her service on four professional boards. As a board leader, Caires strives to educate her peers in the practice by writing journal articles and speaking about advancements in real estate practice and tribal affairs.

"The profession of the law goes well beyond the representation of clients," writes Michael Howard, immediate past president of the Idaho State Bar, in a letter of recommendation. "It requires the uncompensated time, effort and participation of people like Jillian to make it work."

Advocating tribal sovereignty

Caires most recently represented the

Schitsu'umsh Coeur d'Alene Tribe in successful arguments for removal of a boat garage and pilings that encroached on lake water on the reservation.

"Those judgments are recognizable and they are enforceable and they are legitimate judgments from the court of a sovereign nation," says Caires. She was surprised at how many people didn't realize that.

Caires says her most rewarding case was working with a family to bring the body of their daughter home when they were being denied the right to have her body for burial. The case took less than a week but "it felt like one of the longest weeks ever," she says.

"Partially, what draws me to (tribal affairs) is the issues in those cases are much more intricate and complex," says Caires. "Not to say that other cases aren't as important, but it in those situations, you're protecting the tribe's rights, it's been their land for hundreds of years, so protecting

those rights feels particularly meaningful."

A lover of puzzles

As developers submit requests to build throughout Idaho, the number of real estate cases Caires sees is increasing.

"There are a lot of complex rules involved with real estate ... but it's not a black-and-white practice area," Caires says. "It's like solving a puzzle. I like that."

The litigation issues remain mostly the same, as Idaho law doesn't change very quickly, Caires says, but "big ideas" and "creative solutions" are often brought to the table.

"Seeing what some of these developers come up with and do is pretty awesome, because I'm not that brave," Caires says with a chuckle. "It's just neat to see people put their passion into something and to be able to kind of be alongside them cheering them on and helping them to get it done."

Christopher Cook



Associate

Building a lasting foundation

Leaning on his past to help strengthen the community's future

By Lis Stewart

Special to the Idaho Business Review

As part of his work with the transactions group at Hawley Troxell in Boise, Christopher Cook assists in business deals that are often at the forefront of helping new businesses start, or helping existing businesses grow. That kind of work — making deals that have lasting effects on the community — appeals to him.

“With the real estate and corporate transactions we’re doing at Hawley Troxell, we’re really building Idaho,” Cook says. “We are at the forefront, and helping secure and strengthen the foundation of the state I grew up in, so that’s fun and exciting for the future.”

Cook is an associate attorney at Hawley Troxell. He holds a special interest in corporate, business and environmental law and hopes to continue his career in those areas.

Born to an American father and Italian mother, Cook’s early years were spent in both Idaho and Tuscany before his family settled in Ketchum, where his mother still runs her restaurant, Cristina’s. Cook is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Italy and speaks fluent Italian.

His background gives him a global outlook, he says, one that helps him professionally when he has to relate to people of different cultures when working with and representing them in the business world.

“It’s important to visualize and appreciate the bigger picture,” Cook says. “I think it’s essential to have a global and cooperative perspective, especially in today’s market when there is so much interest in Idaho, both foreign and domestic.”

Cook holds undergraduate degrees in finance and international business from the University of Colorado Boulder. After earning his law degree from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago, Cook

practiced law in Illinois for several years before returning to Boise to take a position at Hawley Troxell in 2017.

Cook is a responsive lawyer and has the will to succeed, says Nicholas Miller, managing partner at Hawley Troxell. Cook is thorough and works to understand his cases, Miller adds.

While associate attorneys can sometimes be too shy and not ask enough questions, Cook makes sure he never leaves Miller’s office until he fully understands an issue. He is also prompt with his work, intelligent and treats others with respect, Miller says.

Outside of work, Cook’s nonprofit service includes acting as a board member for the Idaho Foundation for Parks and Lands. He is also a wilderness first responder, which allows him to lead school trips as a volunteer for the Riverstone International School in Boise.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

G. Richard Bevan

Fair, thorough and just
Leading from the bench with compassion
and a commitment to the rule of law

Idaho
Supreme
Court
Justice

By Rebecca Palmer
Idaho Business Review

Loved and respected by all his colleagues — from assistants to superiors and defendants to prosecutors — Idaho Supreme Court Justice G. Richard Bevan has built a legacy of leadership that elevates the state of the judiciary statewide.

“This is the best guy I’ve ever worked for,” says Karen Carlon, his assistant. “He’s just really great with people. You don’t work for him, you work with him.”

Bevan started his career in private practice in Twin Falls after graduating with a law degree from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

After a few years as a trial lawyer, he was elected as a prosecutor for Twin Falls County, where he personally litigated major crime cases, including homicides. Then, after about five years back in private practice, he was appointed (and later elected) as a district judge for Idaho’s fifth judicial district. He served for more than 14 years, and was known for his stellar record, having had only a few cases overturned.



Ruling with compassion

Bevan also expanded his role as a judge by initiating two highly successful problem solving courts. His first was a mental health court, which offered treatment for people with persistent mental illnesses who had

been charged with crimes. The veterans court he started functions similarly but is specific to the needs of former members of the armed forces.

Both courts hold participants responsible for getting treatment, taking prescribed medications and working toward

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

stability over a two-year period.

They require a judge to volunteer his or her time and are restricted to particular kinds of cases and diagnoses, but have proved to be very effective, Bevan explains.

Anecdotally, the problem solving courts have a recidivism rate of just 10%, compared to 30–50% for other courts, he says.

“It was the most rewarding work I ever did as a judge because I could see people change so significantly from lives that were in total disarray when they started to being able to hold down a job,” Bevan adds. “The courts are doing something right in this respect.”

Today, graduates of those courts have become peer mentors and drug and alcohol counselors, Bevan says. One woman qualified to get her kids back from foster care after 13 years, but only after she repaid all her victims of credit card theft as part of the program. Another who could barely talk when he arrived progressed to writing beautiful poetry and is still working in suicide prevention in his community.

Embracing his appellate role

Bevan left the problem-solving courts behind when he was appointed to the Idaho Supreme Court in 2017. These days, he says his job is kind of like going back to law school.

The Idaho Supreme Court holds hearings a few days a month, and the rest of its time is spent studying up on the issues, Bevan explains. He enjoys the appellate role and the camaraderie he has with his four fellow justices, but spends a lot more time alone in his office than he once did.

Already, Bevan has heard hard cases that will have lasting effects in jurisdictions throughout Idaho.

State v. Samuel, for which Bevan wrote the opinion, affirmed the conviction of a teen for the murder of his father and brother in Couer d’Alene. The lengthy opinion delves into multiple well-researched questions, ranging from evidentiary rules to district court discretion.



A legacy of diligence

Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Burdick has nothing but praise and respect for Bevan, with whom he has worked for most of Bevan’s career. Burdick was a district court judge in Twin Falls when Bevan was prosecutor. Later, Burdick heard Bevan’s cases on appeal when Bevan was a judge.

If he had to describe Bevan in a few words, Burdick says, it would be “monolithic, Gibraltar.”

“He’s just so solid, and when I say solid I mean solid in terms of not stoic, but solid in terms of relationships, in terms of ethics, in terms of a vision of excellence that he holds within himself,” Burdick says. “If he tells you something, it is the absolute truth. He does not shade or obscure.”

Bevan’s time on the Supreme Court has also given him a new sense of the state of the judiciary in Idaho, he says, in part because the justices are responsible for hearing complaints against attorneys.

In his 32 years in the law, the standard of excellence in Idaho has risen dramatically, he says. There has been great progress on the state of scholarship across the board, and it is now possible to find fine, highly qualified attorneys in every corner of the state.

Beyond the bench, Bevan stays active in the arts. He sings as a second tenor with the Millennial Choir and Orchestra and recently performed at Carnegie Hall.

While he is reluctant to accept an award for his achievements, Bevan was sure to express gratitude for the many people who have helped him along the way. He is particularly thankful for his wife, Pam, who put him through law school, for the mentorship of Burdick and retired Administrative District Judge Barry Wood and for his partners in his private law practice.



Jill Twedt

In-house
counsel

General counsel gives back by mentoring

Encouragement by teacher led to a career in law

By Pamela Manson

Special to the Idaho Business Review

Jill Twedt, who became interested in the law when she was in elementary school, had help with her career aspirations at an early age.

“One of my first mentors was my fifth-grade teacher,” Twedt said.

The teacher’s husband was the Fourth District Court clerk and during the summer, the two drove Twedt to Boise for lunch and a tour of the courthouse. After meeting lawyers and staff members, she was hooked.

Twedt, who was born and raised in Nampa, earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from The College of Idaho in 2001 and a law degree from the University of Idaho in 2003. Under the university’s 3+3 program, 30 credits from Twedt’s first year of law school counted toward completion of her bachelor’s degree, allowing her to finish both

degrees in six years, instead of seven.

In her final year of school, Twedt had an internship at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center and found she loved working in the corporate setting. After graduation, she became an associate at Hall Farley Oberrecht & Blanton, where she practiced employment defense litigation.

She joined Boise Cascade Company, a manufacturer and distributor of building materials, as associate general counsel in 2007 and became vice president, legal and corporate secretary in 2017. She moved to her current job of vice president, general counsel and secretary in January.

Erin Nuxoll, the company’s senior vice president of human resources, said Twedt excels as a trusted advisor in her management role.

Outside work, Twedt is the vice chair of The College of Idaho Board of Trustees and will assume the role of chair in 2021. She is

also a board member of the United Way of Treasure Valley.

Throughout school and work, Twedt was helped by mentors, including teachers and colleagues, and she continues the practice. She enjoys her leadership position with Boise Cascade because she gets to mentor others.

Twedt also likes mentoring students at her alma mater, where she speaks to classes about her job and how she got where she is.

“I also offer up my card and tell them to call,” Twedt said.

The college’s co-presidents, Doug Brigham and Jim Everett, say Twedt’s willingness to help students seeking guidance “sets her apart.”

“Despite her lofty titles and accomplishments, she has a wonderful ability to relate to our students that is both understanding and encouraging,” Brigham and Everett write in recommendation letters.

Sandra L. Clapp

A portrait of Sandra L. Clapp, a woman with long, wavy, light-colored hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored top. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Sole practitioner

Caring for conservatorship

Founding a practice protective of minors and the elderly

By **Alx Stevens**

Special to the Idaho Business Review

Sandra L. Clapp thought she would go into real property law. Instead, her early years on the bar guided her toward conservatorship for minors and elderly family members.

Twenty-seven years later, her focus hasn't wavered.

A particularly memorable case involved unintentional asset liquidation and domestic terrorism. A stranger had moved in with an elderly couple and took advantage of their dementia, she says. The man talked them into making him their trustee and signing over control of their assets, which he liquidated into gold and silver.

The man was charged with domestic terrorism after threatening with admiralty claims. Then, he was put in prison with an order of restitution.

"For the most part, that I consider to be a successful outcome," says Clapp. "Not for

him having to go to prison but being able to have recouped at least the real property and provided some funding and protection."

Clapp recommends consulting counsel for all transactions at any stage in life, including loans within the family. And, although some may not want to think about it, Clapp advises people to make guardianship, estate or other plans for what to do if their mental faculties should decline.

"There are still certainly situations where the individual is taken advantage of, but I think it can help further a good outcome if we have a plan," Clapp says.

The family business

Clapp has opened two firms, a former one with a friend and her current one, which recently celebrated 15 years of practice. Clapp, her husband, sister, one daughter and son-in-law work at Sandra L. Clapp & Associates, P.A. Even the family dog Cooper has a role in the office as a friendly greeter.

Clapp says "I like to do things my way," as one reason she opened her own firm. But that also came with learning all the operation aspects: bookkeeping, payroll, employee matters, protocol. Clapp later decided she needed a business manager, a role into which her husband stepped. It was a new dynamic, Clapp says, and "a wonderful transition for both."

Clapp also appreciates that her daughter is following in her footsteps by representing guardianship cases. At the firm, while Clapp handles mostly elderly conservatorship cases, her daughter handles mostly minor guardianship cases.

"The practice of law is changing," Clapp says. "And this is somewhat of a reflection on our society. It's more contentious ... It's a stressful career, but I think the practice area we are in has a lot of rewards. I do believe this particular practice area is one of the better ones, where we do have the opportunity to help."

Regan Charlton



Partner

From opponent to partner

Family law offers the opportunity to help others

By Ryan Lowery

Special to the Idaho Business Review

While attending Boise State University, Regan Charlton was the captain of the debate team, an experience that nudged her toward practicing law.

“It was kind of a natural transition. There’s a lot of crossover between debate and the practice of law,” Charlton says. “Some people would say it’s arguing, but I like the term advocacy a little bit more.”

Upon graduating from the University of Idaho College of Law, Charlton moved to Jackson, Wyoming, where she went to work for a general practice firm.

“It was a really great experience for me because I did some criminal law, civil litigation, some family law, just kind of dipped my toe in the water of some pretty diverse areas of practice,” she says.

She moved back to Idaho about a year and a half later, and joined a civil litigation firm where she began working on some family law cases. She says she enjoyed the work, and through some mentorships, she began to develop a niche.

Now a partner at Bevis, Thiry, & Schindele, Charlton says her path to partner has been an unusual one.

“I’d been opposing counsel against Krista Thiry, Jennifer Schindele and Phil Bevis,” she says. “I am humbled by the opportunity to be a partner with such an incredible group of talented attorneys.”

Charlton says she’s proud that she’s gained a reputation as a formidable, yet professional and easy-to-work-with opponent in the family law community, and says the most rewarding thing about her current role is being able to help clients through what is often the most difficult time in their lives.

“I think that’s the thing that drew me to family law: You help people through it, you get them on the other side, and then you can see them be able to take a deep breath at the end of the day and know you were a part of that,” Charlton says.

Like most family law attorneys, Charlton has had her share of big victories in getting her clients favorable outcomes, but she says her greatest professional accomplishment is the positivity she’s able to bring to her clients during emotionally trying times in their lives.

When she’s not working, Charlton says she and her husband try to travel as much as possible, and she tries to get outdoors too.

“I’m an Idaho native, so a big part of my balance in life is getting outside and enjoying the four seasons,” she says. “In the summer, I mountain bike, run and water ski. In the winter, I Nordic ski and downhill ski, and try to just get outside and out of the office.”

Tara Malek



Partner

Thoughtful, fearless and goal-driven Ensuring gender equality in the legal profession

By Chloe Bahl
Idaho Business Review

Tara Malek is a mission-driven leader who always seeks the truth, shows compassion and leads with integrity.

“I enjoy helping people, my community and contributing to make the world a better place through legal advocacy,” says Malek. “I love the challenge of solving complex legal problems and systematically removing obstacles for our clients, so they can get back to business.”

Malek helped build a law firm that is dedicated to providing an environment of gender equality for women.

Her firm, Smith + Malek, is removing common industry barriers for working parents, particularly women, so they can fulfill their full potential as attorneys. It offers the best parental leave policy of any firm of its size in the region, giving full-time

employees 12 weeks off at 100 percent of their salary.

The firm’s mission is to eliminate the traditional obstacles women in law face, such as having to choose between being a fully involved family member and having a thriving law career.

“We are proud to be a female-majority law firm dedicated to making tomorrow better for our clients, our attorneys, and the communities where we live and work,” says Malek. “My personal goal is to see Smith + Malek become a top-five regional business law firm that provides an inclusive and supportive environment.”

Malek’s clarity of goals and values makes her an effective leader. Cora J. Whitney, a colleague at Smith + Malek, can attest. She wrote a letter recommending Malek for this award.

“Tara takes time out of her day to ensure others around her are thriving, not just

making it through the day,” writes Whitney. “She is not only a fantastic boss, but a peer and a friend. She does this all while maintaining the balance of working and leading out of two offices, both in Boise and Coeur d’Alene.”

In Malek’s previous roles as an assistant U.S. attorney and a county prosecutor, she tried cases in state and federal courts throughout Idaho. She worked on a case involving the prosecution of high volume drug traffickers, including an 11-person drug trafficking conspiracy case.

“She is thoughtful and deliberate regarding the cases she accepts, looking for cases that will bring forth justice or right a wrong,” writes Assistant U.S. Attorney Traci J. Whelan in a letter of recommendation. “Her command of the rules of evidence and case law is impressive, and her steadfast decision to promote civility and cooperation solidify her as a leader in law.”

Christine Salmi



Partner

Dedicated, compassionate and engaged

Using legal expertise to lend a helping hand and mentor new lawyers

By Chloe Bahl
Idaho Business Review

Christine Salmi is an accomplished and highly respected attorney who leads by example.

Her most important work has been legal representation provided at no cost in child protection cases and domestic violence disputes.

For almost two decades, Salmi has represented, on a pro bono basis, court-appointed guardians for children who were brought into foster care.

She also served as a member of Attorney Advisory Council for CASA, an organization that sponsors and promotes court-appointed volunteers for neglected children.

In several instances, Salmi ensured these children were placed in a safe and nurturing permanent homes.

"I believe that attorneys have a special responsibility to help those who cannot help themselves," says Salmi. "One particularly vulnerable group of people in this regard are young children who are the victims of abuse

and neglect by their parents."

Salmi also co-founded the Idaho State Bar's Appellate Practice Section and has been very active in organizing continuing legal education programs, both at the federal and state level.

As chair and member of the governing council, she also co-edited the Idaho Appellate Handbook and has written several articles on appellate practice and procedure.

The Section has received a number of awards from the Idaho State Bar for best practice section in the Bar. It also won an award for writing the best articles for the Bar's monthly magazine, *The Advocate*, one of which was written by Salmi.

For years, Salmi has volunteered her time to be a mentor and makes herself available to assist new lawyers as they negotiate their careers.

"Her willingness to dedicate her personal time to others demonstrates leadership that deserves to be recognized," says Peg Dougherty, managing counsel at St. Luke's Health System, in a letter of recommendation. "Christine is a genuine

leader whose demeanor, professionalism, and selfless assistance to others would put her at the top of many people's lists. She is certainly at the top of mine."

For the last three years, Salmi has served as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals appellate lawyer representative for the district of Idaho.

As a liaison between Ninth Circuit appellate judges and members of the Idaho State Bar, she attended a number of judicial conferences where she represented Idaho attorneys.

In this role, Salmi helped raise important practice issues that their attorneys encountered when appearing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Christine's commitment to service and leadership spans beyond the legal profession," says Molly O'Leary, attorney and founder of BizCounselor@Law, in a letter of recommendation. "In a word, she is engaged and, because she is engaged, her leadership has benefited her community as a whole."

Peter J. Smith IV



Partner

Making the world a better place

Effecting change by guiding people through challenging situations

By Ryan Lowery

Special to the Idaho Business Review

While attending Walla Walla University, Peter J. Smith IV took a year away from college to volunteer in Monteverde, Costa Rica, where he and a friend taught sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

“We spent the year living in an 8- by 10-foot shack attached to the school in the cloud forest,” Smith says. “We met a lot of great people and I hope we positively influenced the kids. When I came back, I knew I wanted to be an attorney.”

Smith pursued that dream and attended Pepperdine University School of Law. Then, he went to work as an associate attorney for Lukins & Annis in Coeur d’Alene, making partner in 2009.

In 2015, Smith co-founded Smith + Malek with his friend Luke Malek.

“It was, and still is, a lot of work,” he

says. “We are blessed with a really great team and really great clients.”

Smith says he calls on the other attorneys at Smith + Malek to make the world a better place, and seeks to do the same himself.

“My goal is to make tomorrow better than today for those around me,” Smith says. “We do this every day by guiding people through challenging situations. We should always try to reduce conflict and stress and lead people to a better future.”

Alex Abdo, litigation director for the Knight First Amendment Institute, says Smith was instrumental in helping bring scrutiny to the National Security Agency’s call surveillance powers.

A week after former NSA contractor Edward Snowden leaked documents revealing that the NSA had been collecting the call records of millions of U.S. residents, Smith filed one of the first lawsuits challenging that surveillance program:

Smith v. Obama, filed in the district of Idaho.

According to Abdo, Smith’s suit foreshadowed the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Carpenter v. United States*, which found that it is a violation of the Fourth Amendment for the government to access records containing the physical locations of mobile phones without a warrant.

“Peter’s lawsuit was a courageous act of lawyering and leadership,” Abdo says. “He took advantage of America’s great equalizer — the rule of law — to hold our government to account for an illegal aggrandizement of power.”

However, Smith says his most significant accomplishment in life is marrying his wife and having three children with her.

“The primary influence in my life is my wife, Anna,” he says. “She provides me more support than she knows. It is because of her love and hard work that I am where I am today.”

Nicole Snyder

A portrait of Nicole Snyder, a woman with long blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a red top and gold earrings. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with stone columns.

Partner

Driven, dynamic and devoted

Using hard-earned success to inspire others

By Carey Hamilton
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Growing up in rural Ashton, Idaho, Nicole Snyder enjoyed being on her high school debate team and set her sights on becoming an attorney, in part to empower women and defend their rights.

Now, at only 44, Snyder is a partner at Holland & Hart in Boise, practicing employment and corporate law. She joined 19 years ago after graduating from the University of Michigan Law School and has become what she calls a kind of “lifer” there.

Today, not only does she juggle her family, career and pro bono work, but she inspires and helps others. She has become one of the most accomplished young lawyers in Idaho and the Intermountain West.

“I was always really interested in the law, and, in particular, in women’s issues in the law and was the kid who was on the debate

team, so it was a natural fit,” she says.

She believes women are still underrepresented in the profession and would like the number of female partners and managers to increase.

Aside from advising clients on how to handle complex employment issues related to business acquisitions, including layoffs and executive compensation, she works with members of a number of industries from technology, retail, construction, mining, health care, engineering, waste management, agriculture and education.

The mother of 9-year-old twin boys, she says being in private practice and having a supportive spouse have helped her find a harmonious balance between family and her job. Her family loves the outdoors, especially hiking and skiing at Sun Valley Resort, and she derives a lot of satisfaction from helping animal-welfare organizations with legal matters pro bono.

“My goal is to be the best corporate lawyer and parent I can be at the same time,” she says. “The most important influences in my life are my colleagues. They constantly remind me through their actions what an honor it is to have the job I do.”

And her colleagues clearly admire her determination and input.

“Nicole is an excellent role model, and is one of the most accomplished attorneys in our office,” says Claire Rosston, an associate at the firm who calls Snyder her mentor and recommended her for the Leaders in Law. “She makes practicing sophisticated law while being involved in law firm management, raising twin boys and (being) actively involved in the community through pro bono work, look easy or at least manageable even though we all know it takes intelligence, composure and a very good sense of other people to do all of this so well.”

Michael Stoddard

A portrait of Michael Stoddard, a middle-aged man with grey hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark pinstripe suit jacket over a light pink shirt and a blue tie. The background is a blurred outdoor scene with green foliage and a building.

Partner

Attorney, activist and adoptive parent Making a difference for many

By Carey Hamilton

Special to the Idaho Business Review

From his tenth-floor office in the Wells Fargo building, Michael Stoddard can see the fruits of his hard work and success in helping to change the landscape of downtown Boise. A lawyer for 34 years and now partner at Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley LLP, he glances at the renovated Ada County Court House, the expanded convention center and the new towers of St. Luke's Medical Center.

He and the firm helped make these projects possible as legal counsel and are now helping revive Tamarack Resort, a ski area in the Long Valley of west Central Idaho.

Those are some of the more interesting parts of Stoddard's job, which he calls not "scintillating but rewarding" in general, as they come with the details, meetings and

other factors of being an attorney specializing in banking, business, public finance and government law.

A graduate of Vanderbilt University's Law School in 1985, he says he "kind of fell into law. There was no burning desire" to become an attorney.

But it seemed like a profession in which he could excel, and he has.

One of his proudest achievements is obtaining 501(c)(3) status for many non-profit organizations, including Idaho Business for Education and FACES Family Justice Center, which provides a variety of services for domestic and/or sexual violence survivors.

Married for almost 25 years to Diane Minnich, the executive director of the Idaho State Bar, Stoddard and his wife adopted two girls, who are now 18 and one is off to college. In his spare time, he likes to

play and watch golf, is a wine aficionado and keeps up with how his alma mater, Vanderbilt, is performing in sports.

He is content to be in private practice and never wanted to be a prosecutor, defense lawyer or a public defender, choosing instead to participate in a field where he could accomplish goals in a "less adversarial way" and is proud of the tangible outcomes.

"Practicing in the public finance arena provides the opportunity to work collaboratively with all the lawyers and parties to a transaction and finding solutions to problems rather than wasting time arguing about inconsequential business points," he says. "My goal has never been to stand out from my peers, but rather to learn from them, work with them and put together transactions that most efficiently satisfy the needs of all parties to the deal."

LEADERS IN LAW LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT HALL OF FAME

For seven years, the Idaho Business Review has recognized the best of the best in the legal professions for a lifetime of leadership, service and commitment to the profession. The award celebrates an individual who has risen head and shoulders above others, one “who has honorably represented the legal profession by

exemplifying performance, leadership, integrity and mentoring throughout his or her career while bettering the legal profession overall.”

The Idaho Business Review is proud to recognize those Lifetime Achievement honorees in the 2019 Leaders in Law Hall of Fame.

2018



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Managing Partner
Eiguren Ellis Public Policy

2017



Candy Wagahoff Dale
United States Magistrate Judge
United States District Court for the District of Idaho



LEADERS IN LAW LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT HALL OF FAME

2016



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2015



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Idaho Attorney General

2014



Scott D. Hess
Of Counsel
Holland & Hart LLP

2013



Donald L. Burnett Jr.
Former Interim President
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Kerry Ellen Michaelson
Kinzo H. Mihara
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2018

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Congratulations to all 2019 Leaders in Law honorees.



Michael M. Stoddard

The Arid Club celebrates our member, Michael M. Stoddard for his selection as a Leaders in Law honoree. We recognize his leadership and commitment to our community.



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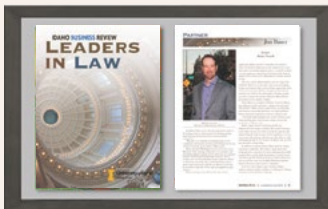
Boise Cascade®

CONGRATULATIONS to Jill Twedt for being selected as a 2019 Leader in Law. You exemplify our company values: integrity, safety, respect and pursuit of excellence. We're so honored to have you on our leadership team.

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