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May 02, 2007

3:54 p.m. -- Aldridge, Perkins Coie Boise office honored at Law Day challenge

Attorney Robert L. Aldridge and the Boise office of Seattle-based Perkins Coie were named the first winners of the new Law Day 6.1 Challenge.

The challenge was sponsored by the Idaho State Bar Association's Fourth District. Winners were announced at a reception Tuesday — Law Day.

They were chosen from among a field of 14 law firms in the Fourth District that submitted detailed 6.1 Challenge Forms.

The term 6.1 refers to a professional rule that requires lawyers to offer a certain amount of free, or pro bono, work in their communities, said Mary Hobson, legal director of the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program.

The applications were reviewed by a panel consisting of Boise Mayor Dave Bieter, Chief U.S. District Judge Lynn Winmill, Fourth District Judge Ronald Wilper, Idaho Supreme Court Justice Linda Copple Trout and Idaho Statesman Editor and Vice President Vicki Gowler.

Aldridge won the small firm competition for his hours spent providing legal aid to churches and individuals on such matters as Medicaid issues, prenuptial agreements, setting up a business, writing wills, and handling insurance claims and property tax problems.

Rick Boardman, managing partner for Perkins Coie in Boise, accepted the award for the competition among larger firms. Its 10 full-time attorneys, two contract attorneys and one part-time attorney provided free legal service to seniors, represented children in court, helped employers with work issues and defended the rights of prisoners.

2 BUSINESS

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2007

Winners of Law Day 6.1 Challenge announced

STATESMAN STAFF

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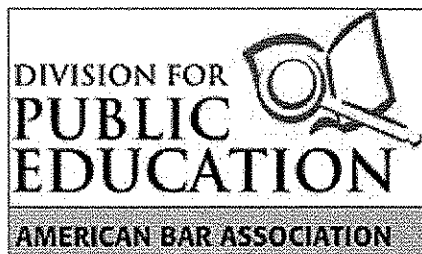
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Law Day Events

Idaho

Idaho Is Celebrating Law Day on May 1st 2007.

Idaho's Fourth Judicial District is celebrating Law Day with a variety of programs and events:

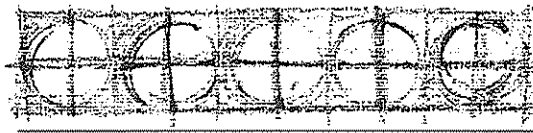
Court of Appeal's-Oral Argument 101: On May 1, the Idaho Court of Appeals will hold the oral argument for a northern Idaho murder case at the Borah High School Auditorium. Borah High School's entire senior class will not only observe this oral argument, but also will study summaries of the parties' briefs in their government classes. Additionally, several local attorneys will attend these government classes to field questions about the procedural and substantive aspects of the case. Following oral argument, the students will have the unique opportunity to ask the Idaho Court of Appeals and counsel for the litigants questions about the judicial process and appellate advocacy.



The 6.1 Challenge: Modeled after Idaho Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 concerning the number of pro bono hours an attorney should handle during a year, this year's *6.1 Challenge* represents a friendly competition to recognize and encourage pro bono and public service from law offices within the Fourth District. The panel, comprised of Idaho Federal District Chief Judge B. Lynn Winmill, 4th District Judge Ronald J. Wilper, Idaho Supreme Court Justice Linda Copple Trout, Boise Mayor David H. Bieter, and Idaho Statesman Executive Editor Vicki Gowler, will determine the winning team/firm by evaluating the quality and type of contributions and the number of hours the office contributed to low-income people through pro bono work and to the community through public service during the last year. The winner of the Pro Bono Award will be announced at the Law Day Reception, May 1, 5:00 p.m. at the Rose Room in Downtown Boise.

Liberty Bell Award: Every year, the Liberty Bell Award acknowledges outstanding community service by an individual in the local community. The Liberty Bell Award recognizes a person or persons who have: (1) promoted a better understanding of the rule of law, (2) encouraged a greater respect for law and the courts, (3) stimulated a sense of civic responsibility, and (4) contributed to good government in the community. The 2007 Liberty Bell Award recipient will be named at the Law Day Reception, held on May 1, at 5:00 p.m. at the Rose Room in Downtown Boise. The event will highlight the Law Day volunteer activities and feature presentation of the Liberty Bell Award to the Hon. Charles L. Hay. In addition, the 6.1 Challenge "Blue Ribbon Panel" will present the first ever 6.1 Challenge award along with their

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6.1 CHALLENGE

The Law Day 2007 reception at Boise's Rose Room was the scene for the presentation of the Fourth District Bar's first ever 6.1 Challenge awards. The 6.1 Challenge is based on Idaho Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 concerning lawyers' responsibility to provide *pro bono* service. The Challenge represents a friendly competition between law offices to recognize and encourage *pro bono* and public service.

Fourteen law firms in the Fourth District submitted entries to the 6.1 Challenge detailing the activities and hours each firm committed to *pro bono* and public service between May 1, 2006 and April 15, 2007. A blue-ribbon panel served as judges for the friendly competition. **Vicky Gowler**, Idaho Statesman Executive Editor, Boise Mayor **Dave Bieter**, Chief U.S. District Judge **Lynn Winmill**, Fourth District Judge **Ronald Wilper** and Idaho Supreme Court Justice **Linda Copple Trout** reviewed the applications and selected the winners.

Vicky Gowler, speaking for the judges, praised the contributions of the competing offices, "the forms were filled with descriptions of wonderful service." Gowler noted the wide variety of legal services contributed to individuals and non-profit organizations and the community service represented by attorney service on boards for the arts, community service groups, universities, and schools, as well as attorney volunteerism in projects such as Rake Up Boise and the Boy Scouts, and at schools and food banks.

The judges admit theirs was a difficult task. Ultimately they chose two winners: **Robert Aldridge**, a sole practitioner and **Perkins Coie LLP**, a regional law firm.

Presenting the award to **Robert Aldridge**, Gowler stated, "his *pro bono* and public service in the past year was simply outstanding." If anything, that is an understatement. Aldridge's submission recorded his donation of several hundred *pro bono* hours assisting nonprofits and individuals with tax, estate planning, and business law services. Aldridge counseled people on Medicaid issues, prenuptial agreements, wills, insurance claims and on property tax issues. In addition Aldridge provided hours of work supporting the legal profession, including reviewing conservator and guardianship laws and setting up a pilot project to monitor guardians and conservators, teaching classes on ethics and coming up with legislative solutions to property tax issues. Aldridge's 6.1 Challenge award is the latest in a long series of recognition for his service including the 2004 AARP Idaho Andrus Award for community service, and the Spirit of Philanthropy Award for his work to obtain rights for the elderly and disabled.

Turning to the large firm winner, **Perkins Coie LLP**, Gowler announced, "the application was impressive in several ways: the high percentage of attorneys involved in *pro bono* and public service, the hours committed to such service and the range of service provided." Perkins Coie is an international firm with



6.1 Challenge Judges - Fourth District Judge Ronald Wilper, Idaho Supreme Court Justice Linda Copple Trout, Vicky Gowler, Idaho Statesman Executive Editor, and Boise Mayor Dave Bieter.

more than 600 lawyers in 15 offices across the United States and China. The Boise office opened in 1997 and currently has 13 attorneys who provide legal services in general commercial litigation, environment and natural resources, labor and employment, business transactions, real estate and government contracts. Describing their *pro bono* service, Gowler stated the attorneys "did everything from providing free legal advice to senior citizens, to representing children in court, to helping employers with work issues, to defending the civil rights of prisoners. They also served on numerous non-profit boards." When asked how Perkins Coie creates a culture that inspires this kind of commitment to *pro bono* and public service, Christine Salmi, the firm's liaison with the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program stated, "Our firm encourages and strongly supports *pro bono* work and public services activities. A major theme of our *pro bono* program is independence—attorneys are urged to choose and develop projects that match their personal beliefs, philosophies and interests." Salmi also noted that while the firm is proud to be one of the first recipients of the 6.1 Challenge award, they "recognize that there are many Idaho attorneys who consistently dedicate their time and skills to performing *pro bono* work and public service activities. We applaud those attorneys for their honorable commitment to our community."

Salmi's sentiment is shared by everyone who worked on the 6.1 Challenge. In fact, in addition to the winners, the judges specifically recognized the *pro bono* service the **Ada County Prosecutor's Office**, the only government office entry, because of the extra care government attorneys must take to avoid conflicts of interest when providing *pro bono* service.

The 6.1 Challenge has already begun for 2008. Anyone needing additional information may contact Mary Hobson, Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program Legal Director at 334-4510 or mhobson@isb.idaho.gov.