

THE STATE OF IDAHO  
SUPREME COURT



LINDA COPPLE TROUT  
JUSTICE (Ret.)

SUPREME COURT BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0101

October 29, 2007

Don Burnett  
Dean, University of Idaho College of Law  
PO Box 442321  
Moscow, ID 83844-2321

**Re: College of Law Advisory Council Recommendations**

Dear Dean Burnett,

In my role as chair of the University of Idaho College of Law Advisory Council, I have been asked to send a letter memorializing the thoughts and recommendation of the Council as an outcome of our recent meeting in Moscow on October 22, 2007. We are well aware that the College of Law will celebrate its centennial in 2009, and is currently engaged in strategic planning for its "second century." The Law Advisory Council has been closely involved in this effort and is very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this process and to have its views considered.

Before discussing the recommendation of the Council, some introductory comments and thanks are appropriate. First of all, to the Dean and the faculty of the College of Law, we are very appreciative of the extraordinary efforts and hours devoted to this project. We congratulate all of you on your hard work throughout this past year in developing the strategic planning issues and in providing detailed, expert analyses of them. We also appreciate the data gathered by, and the insights received from, the consultants engaged by the College of Law. The depth and breadth of Dean Richard Morgan's experience gave us a national perspective on the strategic planning issues.

We also wish to thank President White, Provost Baker, and the other members of their leadership team for recognizing the importance of these issues, for participating in key discussions during the year, and for bringing their valuable perspectives to the Council meeting on October 22. Their participation on behalf of the Administration of the

University of Idaho helped to inform our discussions about the importance of the College of Law's presence on the University campus.

As a result of these meetings and discussions, we reaffirm that the College of Law is a critical part of Idaho's land-grant university and of the university community in Moscow. The University of Idaho's exclusive statewide mission in legal education, as prescribed by the Board of Regents/State Board of Education, is fundamentally important to – and an institutional responsibility of – the University. We are also mindful that the College of Law must continue to be responsive to the needs of the Idaho Bench and Bar as key members of our constituency.

In order to continue fulfilling its statewide mission, the University must take account of rapid growth and changes in Idaho, as well as emerging trends in American legal education. The status quo will not be adequate in the "second century" of the College of Law, as it prepares its students to provide guidance, advice and knowledge in an expanding global and highly complex environment. Students at the College of Law need and deserve an education which will provide a solid basis from which they can face a vast array of career and life challenges in Idaho as well as throughout the country.

With these considerations in mind, and after extensive thought and discussion, the Law Advisory Council recommends that the College of Law and the University of Idaho create, and take to the State Board, a proposal that expresses a bold vision of high-quality legal education in Idaho. This education should be delivered by the University of Idaho at Moscow and at Boise, with courses of study leading to the J.D. degree at both locations. The locations may offer different emphases within an overall curriculum shaped by a unified faculty in the College of Law, and administered as an integral part of the University of Idaho. Planning for the Boise location should include continued exploration of possible collaboration between the College and the Idaho Supreme Court in an "Idaho Law Learning Center."

In making this recommendation, the following conditions are critical to the Council's understanding and support:

- \* The University Administration has committed its best efforts to provide, and will vigorously support the College of Law in obtaining, the resources necessary to achieve high quality at both the Moscow and Boise locations.
- \* The College and the University will craft a business plan that addresses current and future needs of the College of Law at Moscow as well as needs at Boise.
- \* The Boise location will be developed as a satellite or branch in phases consistent with accreditation standards, the overall adequacy of resources, and the depth and quality of the student applicant pool.

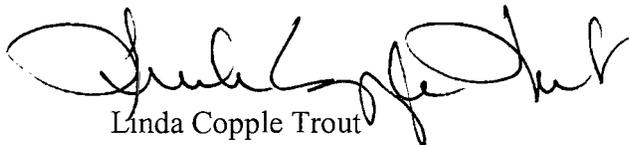
On behalf of the Law Advisory Council, I want to again extend our thanks and appreciation to the Dean, the law faculty, President White and the leadership team, for the time, effort and thought that have been devoted to this strategic planning process.

October 29, 2007

Page 3

That effort has resulted, we believe, in the Council's ability to make a strong and thoughtful recommendation for the College of Law as it moves into its next century of providing an unparalleled legal education to its students. We are appreciative of having been included in the process and we stand ready to contribute in any way we can to assist in this bold and exciting vision for the University of Idaho.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Copple Trout". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "C".

Linda Copple Trout