

**ATTORNEYS FOR CIVIC EDUCATION (ACE)  
INSTITUTE FOR JOURNALISTS**

**COVERING THE COURTS:  
THE RULE OF LAW AND THE WORK  
OF AN INDEPENDENT, IMPARTIAL JUDICIARY**

**Idaho Law & Justice Learning Center, Boise, Idaho  
February 3, 2018**

**PROGRAM AGENDA**

**8:00 – 8:30 a.m.** Participant arrival at the Idaho Law & Justice Learning Center; distribution of institute binders, name tags, and other materials; coffee and light refreshments

**8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks**

- Hon. Jessica Lorello, Judge, Idaho Courts of Appeals, on behalf of ACE
- Betsy Russell, reporter (*Spokesman-Review*) and blogger (“Eye on Boise”), on behalf of the Idaho Press Club
- Hon. Roger Burdick, Chief Justice, on behalf of the Idaho state judiciary
- Hon. Lynn Winmill, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for Idaho, on behalf of the Idaho federal judiciary
- Brief self-introductions by the journalist-participants

**9:00 – 10:30 TOPIC ONE: The rule of law, judicial independence and impartiality; public perceptions shaped by the media**

• **Part A: Overview and Perspectives**

- Judge Lorello (convener and commentator)
- Professor Emeritus Don Burnett (overview of the topic)
- Betsy Russell (perspective of the working journalist)
- Hon. Greg Moeller, District Judge, Seventh Judicial District of Idaho (perspective from the state trial bench)
- Judge Winmill (perspective from the federal trial bench)

**10:30 – 10:45 BREAK**

**10:45 – 11:45 TOPIC ONE (continued)**

• **Part B: Workshop Session: The journalist’s craft – incorporating the rule of law into media coverage of judicial decisions**

- Professor Burnett (examples of media reports containing or lacking rule-of-law content; presentation of court decision to be used in report-drafting exercise)
- Betsy Russell (objectives of the report-drafting exercise)
- Break-out into small working groups; resumption of plenary session
- Betsy Russell (wrap-up of the drafting exercise, and concluding observations)

## **11:45 – 12:30 TOPIC TWO: JUDICIAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES**

- **Part A: Basics of court proceedings (presented during a working lunch)**
  - Judge Moeller (essential elements of civil and criminal procedure in state trial courts)
  - Judge Winmill (essential elements of civil and criminal procedure in federal trial courts)
  - Judge Lorello (the appellate process – common elements of federal and state systems)

## **12:30 – 12:45 BREAK**

## **12:45 – 2:15 TOPIC TWO (continued)**

- **Part B: Beyond the Basics: The Practitioner’s Point of View**
  - David Morse, Deputy Attorney General (moderator)
  - Hon. Lawrence Wasden, Attorney General of Idaho
  - Paul Panther, Chief, Criminal Law Division, Idaho Attorney General’s Office
  - Colleen Zahn, Deputy Attorney General, Civil Litigation Division, Idaho Attorney General’s Office
  - Jan Bennetts, Ada County Prosecutor
  - Chris Topmiller, Canyon County Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecutor

## **2:15 – 2:30 BREAK**

## **2:30 – 3:00 TOPIC THREE: INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR THE MEDIA**

- Betsy Russell (convener and commenter)
- Wendy Olson, Attorney at Law and former U.S. Attorney for Idaho
- Sara Thomas, Administrative Director of the Idaho Courts
- Steve Kenyon, Clerk of the U.S. District Court for Idaho
- Melissa Davlin, Idaho Public Television (producer and host of “Idaho Reports”)

## **3:00 - 3:30 CONCLUDING SESSION**

- Wrap-up discussion for all presenters and participants: best practices, future challenges, and follow-up actions (moderated by Judge Lorello and Betsy Russell)
- Completion of evaluation forms by participants and distribution of certificates of participation