

**IDAHO PRESS CLUB  
ATTORNEYS FOR CIVIC EDUCATION (ACE)  
IDAHO SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEALS  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF IDAHO  
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF LAW**

**FIFTH INSTITUTE FOR JOURNALISTS (2024)**

***Can Courts Be Independent and Impartial in a Hyper-Partisan Era?  
Public Perception and the Role of Journalism***

**University of Idaho College of Law/Boise Location  
501 West Front Street, Boise, Idaho**

**Saturday, November 16, 2024**

**PROGRAM AGENDA**

**8:45 – 9:00 a.m.** Arrival and check-in; coffee, water, and light snacks provided; find a seat before program begins. Meet on first floor, room 114 (on the south side of the building).

**9:00 – 9:15 a.m.      WELCOMING REMARKS**

- Hon. David C. Nye, Chief United States District Judge, on behalf of the federal judiciary
- Hon. Gregory Moeller, Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, on behalf of the state judiciary
- Aviva Abramovsky, Professor and Dean, University of Idaho College of Law
- Kolby Reddish, Attorneys for Civic Education (ACE)
- Melissa Davlin, President, Idaho Press Club

**9:15 – 9:30 a.m.      BRIEF SELF-INTRODUCTIONS BY JOURNALISTS**

**9:30 – 11:00 a.m.    TOPIC ONE: MEDIA COVERAGE OF JUDICIAL DECISIONS**

**9:30 – 10:00 a.m.    Topic One, Part A: Reporting on the Third Branch of Government: The Uniqueness of the Judiciary**

- The role of an independent, impartial judiciary in the federal and state systems, and how judicial elections work in various jurisdictions.
  - Don Burnett, Professor Emeritus and former Dean, University of Idaho College of Law

**10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Topic One, Part B: Public Perceptions Shaped by the Media**

- Challenges facing journalists and judges in communicating the rule-of-law content of judicial decisions.
  - Hon. Gregory W. Moeller, Justice, Idaho Supreme Court
  - Melissa Davlin, producer for Idaho Public Television and host of “Idaho Reports”

**11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Break and proceed to room 221 on second floor to pick up boxed lunches, begin lunch to continue through next presentation.**

**11:30 – 12:15 p.m. TOPIC TWO: IDAHO’S PUBLIC DEFENSE SYSTEM**

- Presentation on the lawsuit and work that led to Idaho’s new system and an update on how it functions and what is different from the previous system.
  - Eric Fredericksen, State Public Defender
  - Kathleen Elliott, Deputy Director, State Public Defender Office
  - Joe Pirtle, Idaho State Bar, bar counsel

**12:15 – 12:45 p.m. TOPIC THREE: CURRENT ISSUES IN COURT COVERAGE**

- This session will include updates from the state and federal courts and the Idaho Press Club on new rules, initiatives, and other current court matters.
  - Rebecca Boone, Supervisory Correspondent, Associated Press of Idaho
  - Melissa Davlin, President, Idaho Press Club
  - Nate Poppino, Communications Manager, Idaho Supreme Court
  - Stephen Kenyon, Clerk of the Court, United States District and Bankruptcy Court, District of Idaho

**12:45 – 1:45 p.m. TOPIC FOUR: HOT TOPICS IN ELECTION LAW**

- Phil McGrane, Idaho Secretary of State
- Benji Cover, University of Idaho College of Law, Professor

**1:45 – 2:00 p.m. Break and return to first floor classroom, room 114**

**2:00 – 2:50 p.m. TOPIC FIVE: EMERGING NEW MEDIA AND THE RISE OF INDIVIDUAL JOURNALISM**

Rebecca Boone, Supervisory Correspondent, Associated Press of Idaho, and Nate Poppino, Communications Manager, Idaho Supreme Court, will discuss the constitutional values of the news media, how those apply to the current emerging media platforms, and how state courts currently categorize press, and press access in recent high-profile cases.

**2:50 – 3:00 p.m. (short break to transition panelists and open CLE part of the program with attorneys/journalists)**

**3:00 – 4:15 p.m.      TOPIC SIX: THE CONSTITUTIONAL INTERSECTION BETWEEN PARENTAL RIGHTS, CHILDREN’S RIGHTS, AND STATE INTERESTS**

- This presentation will consider how parents’ rights have shaped legislative proposals across the U.S. in recent years, involving issues ranging from library books, school bathrooms, gender identity, and access to gender-affirming medical treatment. How do courts weigh the rights of parents, minors, and the state? What legal precedents apply? The panel discussion will consider the key cases and constitutional provisions and explore the rights of parents, the rights of minors, and the place where they intersect with government interests. As part of the discussion, our panelists will touch on a variety of topics, including parental rights in the context of domestic relations, child protection, parental termination, adoption, and the Indian Child Welfare Act.
  - o Howard Belodoff, Associate Director of Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc.
  - o Rebecca Boone, Supervisory Correspondent, Associated Press of Idaho
  - o Hon. Jessica Lorello, Judge, Idaho Court of Appeals
  - o Daniel Skinner, General Counsel, Boise School District

**4:15 p.m.                      Break and proceed to Room 221 for reception**

**4:30 to 6:00 p.m.      Reception**

## VENUE INFORMATION

### **Entrance to Building:**

The only entrance to the UI College of Law at 501 W. Front Street that will be open on November 16 is off the south side of Front Street near the 5<sup>th</sup> Street intersection, pictured below.



**Parking:** There are 2-hour metered parking zones along Broad, 5th, and 6th Streets, along with a 4-hour metered parking zone two blocks further east on Broad Street. You can pay for parking and add more time using a credit card or the [Parkmobile app](#). A map of Boise City parking options can be accessed here, <https://www.cityofboise.org/departments/finance-and-administration/parking-services/downtown-parking/>. Zone 3 has no cost parking at meters on Saturdays. Home2Suites has a parking garage at the northwest corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Front Streets. More information about that parking garage and other parking options is available at [Parkopedia](#).

**Wi-Fi Access:** The building has free access through our AirVandalGuest network. The password is "GoVandals!" (without the quotation marks).