

# Lawyer Representatives of the District of Idaho to the Ninth Circuit Conference of the United States Courts – Your Access to the Federal Bench

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Idaho attorneys should be aware that they have a very useful (yet sometimes overlooked) resource readily at hand – namely, the three federal Lawyer Representatives of the District of Idaho.

Appointed by the members of Idaho’s federal bench to serve staggered three-year terms, the Lawyer Representatives hail from rotating geographical districts within the State of Idaho and represent a variety of federal court practices. They serve as liaisons to foster open communications between Idaho’s attorneys and our resident federal judges, and they serve as conduits for advancing opinions and suggestions for the improvement of the administration of justice in our federal courts. The three currently-serving Lawyer Representatives for the federal District of Idaho are Howard D. Burnett of Pocatello (3rd year representative from the 6<sup>th</sup> District – civil litigation practice), Lori A. Nakaoka of Ketchum (2nd year representative from the 5<sup>th</sup> District – criminal defense and immigration practice), and Nicole C. Hancock of Boise (1st year representative from the 4<sup>th</sup> District – civil litigation practice). The next Lawyer Representative to be selected for the three-year term commencing in 2017 will be chosen from among applicants located in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Districts.

Throughout each calendar year, the Lawyer Representatives attend meetings in Boise of the Board of Judges of the District of Idaho, participate extensively with U.S. Magistrate Judge Ronald E. Bush in the planning and presentation of Idaho’s annual federal Bench Bar Conferences, serve as members of various federal court committees (including the Local Rules Committee), and participate in the planning and presentation of the Idaho Teachers’ Institute (a civic education program for Idaho’s secondary schoolteachers of government, history and social studies focusing on the rule of law and the role of an independent, impartial judiciary). The Lawyer Representatives also make recommendations concerning proposed uses of, and participate with the Board of Judges in the review and approval of requested expenditures from, the Non-Appropriated Fund (generated by the District of Idaho’s receipt of attorney admission fees and *pro hac vice* admission fees) for the benefit of the bench and the bar in the administration of justice.

In addition, the Lawyer Representatives participate with their counterparts from all of the districts throughout the Ninth Circuit in the planning and related activities of the Ninth Circuit’s Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee (“LRCC”), including the planning of the annual “Conference of Chief District Judges and Lawyer Representatives” and the annual “Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.” Finally, the Lawyer Representatives have the privilege of attending as delegates from the District of Idaho the annual Conference of Chief District Judges and Lawyer Representatives (held in Las Vegas in 2015, and in Tucson in 2016) and the annual Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference (held in San Diego in 2015, and to be held in Big Sky, Montana in 2016).

Service as a Lawyer Representative provides a unique opportunity to observe the inner workings of the federal court system and to work closely with federal judges, court personnel and

other federal court practitioners to promote the efficient administration of justice. It's a challenging role, and it can be time-consuming – but it's always very rewarding.

Idaho attorneys are invited and strongly encouraged to contact the currently-serving Lawyer Representatives with inquiries, concerns and suggestions: Howard D. Burnett, [hburnett@hawleytroxell.com](mailto:hburnett@hawleytroxell.com), (208) 233-0845; Lori A. Nakaoka, [lnak@mindspring.com](mailto:lnak@mindspring.com), (208) 726-1010; Nicole C. Hancock, [nicole.hancock@stoel.com](mailto:nicole.hancock@stoel.com), (208) 387-4231.