

JOINT RESOLUTION ON PRO BONO

WHEREAS, equal justice for all is fundamental to our system of government; and

WHEREAS, the promise of equal justice under the law is not realized for individuals and families who have no meaningful access to the justice system because they are unable to pay for legal services; and

WHEREAS, this de facto denial of equal justice has an adverse impact on these individuals, families, and society as a whole, and works to erode public trust and confidence in our system of justice; and

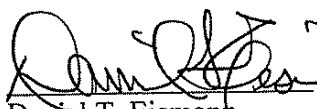
WHEREAS, the judicial branch in our constitutional structure shoulders the primary governmental responsibility to preserve and protect equal justice; and

WHEREAS, the principles set forth herein have been embraced by the U.S. Conference of Chief Justices in a resolution adopted in January 2001 and by the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association in a series of resolutions adopted in August 2006;

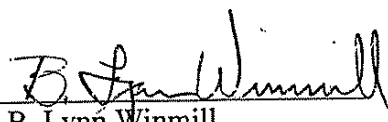
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho, and the Idaho State Bar urge law firms, corporate law departments, and governmental law offices to adopt pro bono policies and procedures to engage all lawyers in pro bono and public service activities that will increase access to equal justice; and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Courts and the Bar shall establish a Pro Bono Commission, comprised of no more than 20 members including: members of the two courts; a representative of the Office of the Idaho Attorney General; a representative of the University of Idaho College of Law; senior representatives of at least three Idaho law firms; a representative of the Idaho Legal Aid Services; a representative of the Idaho Law Foundation; and a representative of the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program, which Commission shall be charged with the responsibility to:

- Encourage larger law firms, corporate law departments, and government law offices to maximize the involvement of attorneys in pro bono services without adverse effect on the compensation or advancement of pro bono volunteers;
- Explore the development of means and incentives to encourage and support attorneys in providing services to those who are unable to pay for legal services but are engaged in adversarial proceedings where basic human needs are at stake.



Daniel T. Eismann
Chief Justice
Idaho Supreme Court



B. Lynn Winmill
Chief District Judge
U. S. District Court



Terrence R. White
President
Idaho State Bar