aho egal Services Annual Report 2007

ear riends,

Emesto Sanchez We are pleased to present Idaho Legal Aid Services' 2007 Annual Report. For thirty-nine years our organization has served the legal needs of low income Idahoans. Every day, we work to protect those who are less fortunate by providing them access to the judicial system. We represent the most vulnerable persons in our society, such as survivors of violence, the elderly, persons with disabilities, homeless veterans, Native Americans, and Migrant Farmworkers. In addition to helping our clients resolve often complex legal problems, we provide stability and financial savings to the state of Idaho.

> This report is a snapshot of what we have accomplished over the past year. In 2007 alone, our attorneys served 4,400 clients and impacted the lives of more than 4,994 of their family members. These remarkable achievements are

the direct result of our extraordinary attorneys and staff. Many of our staff have dedicated their careers to helping our clients and are experts in various areas of poverty law. Others are fresh out of law school, and despite the burden of school debt have chosen Idaho Legal Aid Services for their life's work.

Xecutive Director,

Our firm is not resting on its laurels. We have incorporated new technologies and improvements to our legal delivery model to serve more clients, more efficiently. Idaho Legal Aid Services, in partnership with the Idaho Supreme Court and Idaho Commission on Aging, is a leader in "automating" legal forms by linking them to document assembly software which enables users to represent themselves by completing complex forms by answering simple questions in an interview format. Two statewide attorney staffed advice lines serve domestic violence victims and senior citizens who may not otherwise have access to our offices. Our attorneys receive constant training enabling them to act as leaders in the Idaho bar on poverty law issues.

Despite our best efforts we cannot serve the civil legal needs of Idaho's rapidly growing population. Even as the state's population has grown our federal funding has stagnated and we depend more and more on unpredictable soft money grants. To remain effective into the future our only option is to seek funding from the state of Idaho. Forty-seven other states already fund their legal aid providers. Our job is to demonstrate that providing Idaho's citizens access to the third branch of government not only protects the legitimacy of government but pays the state financial dividends. For example, we estimate that our 2007 family law practice obligated abusers to pay in one year \$1,275,660 in child support, day care, and medical insurance costs for their children, alleviating the state of Idaho from paying some of those costs. A second example is the program's Social Security practice which as a result of our 2007 cases will bring an additional estimated \$2,689,200 in federal dollars to Idahoans with disabilities.

Throughout this report you will see that each problem we resolve creates stronger, safer communities for all of us. We want to thank all of our supporters and friends by re-dedicating ourselves to our clients and work. We will continue to provide the highest guality services and maintain the high standards of professional and personal integrity which clients have come to expect from Idaho Legal Aid Services for almost forty years.



Our Mission:

Idaho Legal Aid Services is a nonprofit statewide law firm dedicated to providing equal access to justice for low income people through quality advocacy and education.

Service to Our Clients and Communities

How we deliver our services

Idaho Legal Aid Services has streamlined the way we help clients to maximize the number of persons we can help. We recognize that clients have different needs. For example, many of those who contact us simply need legal information or a legal brochure. Others can be helped by enabling them to access and complete automated legal forms through our Idaho Legal Aid Services' website. Thousands of clients have simply needed to talk about their legal problems with one of our advice line attorneys. Only persons with the most complex and difficult legal problems engage one of our attorneys for extended representation.

In 2007, Idaho Legal Aid Services helped the following:

Direct Representation 2,277

Advice Line Clients 2,123

Automated Document Assemblies 14,365 *See page 11 for complete breakdown of services

Unique Website Visitors, Paper Brochures Distributed and Presentation Attendees 106,753



Idaho Legal Aid Services pursues a statewide strategy to combat family violence because of the serious implications it has for survivors, their children and our society. In 2007, Idaho Legal Aid Services attorneys represented 1,075 clients with 2,180 children to end domestic violence in their lives. We routinely represent survivors in protection order, divorce, custody, modification, contempt, and parental termination proceedings through our seven branch offices and the Nampa Family Justice Center.

The entry of a court order terminating an abusive relationship typically results in greater stability for Idaho Legal Aid Services' clients and their children. For example, a protection order stopping contacts between an abuser and victim is usually enough to temporarily deter further violence. Most long-term orders obtained by ILAS attorneys in divorce and custody cases include provisions designed to decrease or eliminate future violence toward parents and their children.



Common safeguards include:

- Supervised visitation with children in the presence of a third party for parents with a history of violence or a prohibition on all visitation with particularly dangerous abusers;
- The use of public locations, such as 24 hour restaurants, for the exchange of children for visitation;
- A requirement that abusers undergo a domestic violence evaluation and then successfully complete all recommendations resulting from the evaluation;

Restrictions on phone and other contacts between the parties; and



Provisions allowing for drug testing of parents with a history of drug abuse.





Idaho Legal Aid Services' representation of survivors of violence results in major financial benefits to our clients and the state. We estimate our 2007 family law practice obligated abusers to pay in one year \$1,275,660 in child support, day care, and medical insurance costs for their children. This representation also levels the playing field when it comes to dividing marital assets and debts. It is not unusual for abusers, who typically crave control, to leave a survivor of violence with absolutely no assets. Often the house, cars, and financial accounts are in the name of the abuser only or under their exclusive control. The resulting dire financial situation often results in the survivor living in sub-standard housing, a crisis shelter, becoming homeless, or reconciling with their abuser out of financial necessity. Once an Idaho Legal Aid Services attorney intervenes, they ensure the victimized spouse is awarded at least one half of the assets and only their fair share of the debts. If the parties own a home we typically ask that the survivor, who usually has the children, is awarded possession during the case. In cases with extreme violence, Idaho Legal Aid Services attorneys often obtain an unequal property distribution awarding the survivor more than half of the assets and less than half of the debts so they can support their children.

Domestic Violence

Legal Advice Line

Since 1999 Idaho Legal Aid Services has served 2,395 survivors of violence with 4,315 children through the attorney staffed Domestic Violence Legal Advice Line. The Advice Line format is particularly useful in a large state like Idaho where the nearest Idaho Legal Aid Services office may be a three hour drive away. Low income clients using the attorney staffed hotline receive immediate help with their legal questions and referrals for domestic violence shelters and other resources. The experienced Advice Line attorneys routinely answer questions like, "How do I get a protection order?" or "What can I do if my spouse kidnaps my child?" The Domestic Violence Legal Advice Line can be reached toll free at: (877) 500-2980 and is open from Monday-Friday* 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Pacific Time).

*Excluding holidays and other office closures.





Idaho Senior Legal Hotline



The statewide Senior Legal Hotline, a project funded through the Idaho Commission on Aging with funds from the U.S. Administration on Aging since 2006, has been one of Idaho Legal Aid Services' most successful projects. In 2007, the Senior Hotline Attorney served 1,687 clients age 60 or older on a wide variety of legal issues including:



The Senior Legal Hotline attorney provides legal advice, limited legal research, opinion letters, legal brochures and referrals to Idaho Legal Aid Services/Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program attorneys for extended representation as well as to the private bar. The Senior Legal Hotline can be reached toll free at (866) 345-0106 or Español (866) 954-2591, Monday-Friday,* 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Mountain Time). Seniors age 60 and over qualify

for assistance, regardless of income.

*Excluding holidays and other office closures.



Securing Health Care

A large part of Idaho Legal Aid Services' senior practice is dedicated to clients in failing health who need financial help to move into a nursing home or assisted living facility. Most of these clients are referred by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare or service providers to obtain legal advice and legal documents needed to qualify for Medicaid such as Miller Trusts and Marriage Settlement Agreements. In 2007, Idaho Legal Aid Services attorneys assisted 553 seniors to obtain Medicaid long term care.

Guardianships and

Conservatorships

Idaho Legal Aid Services attorneys are frequently called upon to obtain guardianships or conservatorships for vulnerable persons who are unable to manage their own affairs. Many of these guardianships are filed on behalf of grandparents to protect children who have suffered abuse and neglect from dysfunctional parents. Frequently, these parents are incarcerated or addicted to narcotics, such as methamphetamine. These guardianships provide grandparents the legal authority to enroll their grandchild/ren in school, take them to the doctor, and obtain benefits. The second most common situation where Idaho Legal Aid Services attorneys file guardianships or conservatorships is where an adult becomes incapacitated. This often occurs where an adult has severe dementia or Alzheimer's which leaves them unable to function and vulnerable to financial exploitation or abuse.



reserving Housing

Helping clients with housing problems has been a long-term Idaho Legal Aid Services practice priority. In 2007, Idaho Legal Aid Services attorneys represented 940 clients in housing cases which benefited 2,048 persons. Representing tenants being illegally evicted has been a large part of this legal practice. This representation often makes the difference between having a home and homelessness for Idaho's families. In recent years Idaho Legal Aid Services' housing attorneys have dedicated a growing part of their practice to representing mobile home park tenants faced with park closures. Soaring property prices have helped to drive mobile home park closures around Idaho. For example, five Boise mobile home parks with over 300 home spaces closed during 2005. Another eleven parks closed in Coeur d'Alene in 2006. These parks have traditionally provided unsubsidized housing for low-income Idahoans, a substantial number of whom are seniors or persons with disabilities. When parks close many residents who own a mobile home and pay space rent lose their homes due to the high costs of moving a mobile home. Idaho Legal Aid Services' attorneys help tenants being evicted when parks close for a variety of legal issues.

Enforcement of the Fair Housing Act is another growing Idaho Legal Aid Services practice area. The Fair Housing Act protects Idahoans from housing discrimination based on their race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, and familial status. The recent deterioration of Idaho's housing market has highlighted the state's predatory lending problem. Predatory lending, the practice of preying on, or taking advantage of, an individual or group of people who may have a difficult time buying or refinancing a home such as people who may be poor, uneducated, elderly, or in a protected class is prohibited by the Fair Housing Act.

Stabilizing Finances

Legal representation by Idaho Legal Aid Services attorneys annually brings millions of federal dollars into Idaho for disadvantaged clients. Those funds are then spent in Idaho communities for food, rent and everyday necessities. For example, the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program provides a monthly check for aged, blind, or disabled persons who are needy, and who can't work. Idaho Legal Aid Services estimates that its 2007 SSI legal practice will bring \$2,170,800 of federal funds into Idaho for program clients. A second federal program, Social Security Disability Insurance, provides disability benefits to disabled workers who have paid in enough money to the Social Security fund over enough quarters to have insured status. Idaho Legal Aid Services estimates that its 2007 Social Security disability benefits practice will bring another \$518,400 of federal funds into Idaho for program clients. Idaho Legal Aid Services' attorneys also represent clients who need assistance with the Food Stamp and County Assistance programs.



Migrant Farmworker Law

Idaho agriculture is heavily dependent on migrant farmworker labor to keep this multi-billion dollar industry working. Idaho Legal Aid Services' Migrant Farmworker Law (Migrant Unit) was created to protect this often vulnerable population. In 2007 the Migrant Unit closed 108 cases benefiting 386 people. Common cases concerned the recovery of unpaid wages, violations of farmworker protection laws, denial of public benefits, housing evictions, consumer problems, and many other matters.

Migrant Unit outreach workers are based in Caldwell, Twin Falls, and Idaho Falls. They provide door-to-door outreach to farmworkers on labor laws such as the Idaho Farm Labor Registration and Bonding Act, the Idaho worker's compensation law, and the Federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act.

The Migrant Unit works closely with community organizations and state and federal agencies. Migrant Unit staff collaborate with the Idaho Migrant Council, the Idaho Community Action Network, Campesinos Unidos de Idaho, and migrant health clinics like Terry Reilly Health Services. They participate in local networks of agencies that provide services to farmworkers, and serve on the boards of organizations that serve farmworkers.

Indían Law

Native Americans comprise the lowest income group in Idaho. Almost a quarter of Native Americans in Idaho have incomes below the poverty level. Idaho Legal Aid Services' Indian Law Unit provides legal assistance to Native Americans and Tribes in Idaho. The Tribes have their own tribal courts, judges, legal codes, traditions, and customs. Idaho Legal Aid Services' staff attorneys provided representation in 71 cases for Native Americans in 2007. Many of these cases concerned estate planning on Indian Reservations in cooperation with the University of Idaho College of Law legal clinic.



Idaholegalaid.org

Idaho Legal Aid Services has invested significant resources in the program's website to help Idahoans understand their rights. In 2007, the idaholegalaid.org website had 1,831,106 page views from 74,748 unique visitors. The site offers:



160 brochures and educational documents in 14 different areas of the law including domestic violence, consumer, education, employment, family law, immigration, migrant farmworker, housing, individual rights, Native American issues, wills and probate, public benefits, and seniors.



Access to pro se interactive court forms and documents



Events calendar including outreach, workshops and public trainings



Location and contact information for offices and advice lines, and



Information concerning free and low-cost legal help throughout the state



The Interactive Forms Project

Idaho Legal Aid Services and the Idaho Supreme Court have partnered to develop "automated" legal forms for use by low income self-represented persons in selected civil court cases. This innovative project, funded by the Legal Services Corporation, enables persons to complete legal forms online by navigating through a "plain English" interview without ever seeing a legal form. The 35 form packets already automated include 150 forms required for protection orders, small claims, durable powers of attorney, default divorces, claims of exemption, name changes and landlord-tenant problems (wrongful evictions and repairs). In 2007, 14,365 legal forms were assembled through the Interactive Forms Project. The interactive court forms are available online at no cost through both the Idaho Legal Aid Services and Idaho Supreme Court websites at:

www.idaholegalaid.org

www.courtselfhelp idaho.gov

A PROJECT OF: IDAHO LEGAL AID SERVICES WWW.IDAHOLEGALAID.ORG IDAHO SUPREME COURT WWW.COURTSELFHELP.IDAHO.GOV

IDAHO

EASY, STEP.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

INTERACTIVE COURT FORMS

2007 Financial Data

INCOME/RESOURCES 2007

Balance Forward	\$ 650,711
Legal Services Corporation	1,433,091
Idaho Law Foundation	169,500
Indian Estate Planning	30,766
Area Agencies on Aging	163,276
US Dept of Housing & Urban Development	79,876
STOP Crime Bill	38,600
United Way	77,055
PILF	3,125
U.S. Dept. of Justice	345,836
U.S. Health and Human Services	75,486
Interest	20,630
Other	13,333
IPADV and other Donations	66,331
Total Income/Resources	\$3,167,616



EXPENSES		
Salaries	\$1,590,902	2007 Case Distribution:
Employee Benefits	442,731	²⁰⁰⁷ C
Contract Services	119,772	ase D.
Occupancy	140,681	$Consumer - 493 (138)$ $F_{amily} - 1308 (308)$ H_{ousin}
Office Expense	57,024	F vultion.
Travel and Outreach	33,564	amily 493 (
Telephone	30,418	$H_{e_{a/tb}}$ $1308(324)$
Library	21,148	$\begin{array}{c} H_{ealth} = 493 (138) \\ H_{ealth} = 628 (308) \\ H_{ousing} = 940 (218) \\ O_{ther} \end{array}$
Training	25,855	$\begin{array}{c} G_{overnment} & S_{0}(15\%) \\ G_{overnment} & B_{enefits} - 344 \\ T_{otal} - 4400 \end{array}$
Insurance	9,240	$O_{Vernment}$
Equipment Rental/Repair	31,364	Other Bener
Litigation Reimbursement	537	$\begin{array}{c} O_{ther} & & FO(21\%) \\ O_{ther} & B_{enefits} - 344 \\ T_{otal} - 4400 \end{array}$
Data Processing	8,076	\$400 \$74 (8%)
Audit	10,500	
Depreciation	19,437	
Other	15,404	
Total Expenses	\$2,556,653	
Fund Balance End of 2007	\$ 610,963	
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Legal education brochures

Referrals to private attorneys, Social service agencies, and other

Providers: 5,839

Hours expended by attorney staff on private bar involvement activities: 603.3

distributed: 28,005

Our Supporters Government and foundations:

Legal Services Corporation (LSC)

U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Legal Assistance for Victims grant through subcontract with Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

DOJ Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement grant through subcontract with Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence

PARTNERS AGAINS

STOP Violence Against Women Act grant through Idaho State Police

United Way agencies in Boise, Caldwell, Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston and Pocatello

Idaho Law Foundation Interest on Lawyers Trust Account

Older Americans Act funds through subcontract with Idaho's six Area Agencies on Aging

Native Education World Intelligence

AVISTA Foundation

Walter & Leona Dufresne Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation

Casey Family Foundation

U.S. Administration on Aging funds through subcontract with Idaho Commission on Aging

Idaho Partners Against Domestic Violence

The Idaho Partners Against Domestic Violence raises funds for Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc., Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program and Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence to serve victims of domestic violence and to prevent such violence. The 2007 campaign raised more than \$130,000 for victims of violence. The 2007 campaign was co-chaired by Idaho Supreme Court Justice Linda Copple Trout and Merlyn Clark of Hawley Troxell Ennis & Hawley, LLP. Idaho Legal Aid Services would like to thank Justice Trout, Mr. Clark, and the other volunteer members of the Idaho Partners Against Domestic Violence Leadership Committee for their skill and dedication in promoting this vital campaign.



2007 Individual Donations of Time and/or Financial Support

Idaho Legal Aid Services expresses our sincere thanks to the individuals and organizations listed below that generously contributed time, items and/or financially to our organization in 2007.

Bev Allen Tom & Mary Barker Jose Bautista Carol Bearce Mary Blanchard Veronica Brackenbury **Brent Bunkall** Loren & Ruth Call **Beverly Campbell** Adriana Carranza for Isela Carranza Robert Charboneau Lewis Charest Colleen Courtis-Archuleta Allyn Dingel Rockie & Barbara Egner Marjorie Ellis Ewing Anderson, PS **Experience Works** Sean Fitzgerald Wayne Fuller Susan Giallombardo James Henken C. F. Herzog **Bradley Hewitt** Hewlett-Packard Company C Vann & Mary Hollie Nick & Rowena Jelaco



Gale Lacey Dean Leckie Ramon Martinez Lopez **Robert Magette** Crispin Martinez **Douglas McPherson** Andee Moser Peggy Anne Nichols Lacee Oliver Todd Pingel Frank Powell Margaret W. Reed Foundation Mary Ritchie Roger Rizzo Randy Robinson Shirley Shaw **Michael Sinks** Sylvia Skinner Wendy Swanson Paul Tomechko Santiago Torres Victoria Trotta Carol Venn Weverhaeuser-iLevel Commercial Office Lauramae White Lorene & Dennis Whitehead Dion E Wilson

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Staff

Administrative Office

Ernesto G. Sanchez, Executive Director Howard Belodoff, Associate Director and Indian Law Unit Director Jim Cook, Deputy Director Mary Zimmerman, Administrator Steve Rapp, Technology Project Developer Bev Allen, Executive Assistant

<u>Boise</u>

Roderick Gere, Managing Attorney Zoe Ann Olson, Staff Attorney Sunrise Ayers, Staff Attorney Ritchie Eppink, Staff Attorney (Nampa Justice Center) Linda Johnston, Secretary Margie Droulard, Secretary Gale Lacey, Secretary

Caldwell

Andrew Thomas, Managing Attorney Erik Johnson, Migrant Farmworker Law Unit Director John Cross, Staff Attorney (Nampa Justice Center) Delia Gonzalez-Munson, Outreach Worker Margaret Vega, Secretary Marta Santos, Secretary

Coeur d'Alene

Alan Wasserman, Managing Attorney Chuck Sheroke, Staff Attorney Carl Follevaag, Staff Attorney Erma Williams, Secretary Sherry Darnton, Secretary

Idaho Falls

Michael Hinman, Managing Attorney Jessica Cahoon, Staff Attorney Alicia Duran, Outreach Worker Tracey Johnson, Secretary Amy Taylor, Secretary

Lewiston

Jeannine Ferguson, Managing Attorney Selina Davis, Staff Attorney Lisa Tenny, Secretary Nancy Randall, Secretary

Pocatello

Angela Jensen, Managing Attorney Fred Zundel, Senior Attorney Jeannie Fogerson, Secretary

Twin Falls

Michael McCarthy, Managing Attorney Karen McCarthy, Staff Attorney Laura O'Connell, Staff Attorney Carmen Macias, Outreach Worker Tina Young, Secretary Delilah Granillo, Secretary



2007 Keystone Award Presented To:

Alan Wasserman

Recognizing your special abilities and skills which have created a strong and solid foundation within ILAS and enhanced the efficient and effective delivery of legal services to the client community.

2007 Special Recognition Award Presented To:

Carmen Macias Jeannine Ferguson

For the generous contributions of your time, talents, and efforts which have enabled ILAS to accomplish its mission of delivering high quality legal services.

Mick Hodges, President, Fifth District Bar Association, Twin Falls Mick Hodges, President, Fifth District Bar Association, Twin Falls Mary Huneycutt, Vice President, Sixth District Bar Association, Pocatello Connie Henade Secretary Crisis Center of Madic Valley Twin Falls Board of Directors Mary Huneycutt, vice Frestoent, Sixth District Bar Association, Focati Connie Henage, Secretary, Crisis Center of Magic Valley, Twin Falls Mike Wutuchak, Firet Dietrict Bar Accociation Coeur d'Alene Wike Wytychak, First District Bar Association, Coeur d'Alene Anthony Grobern Second District Bar Association, Lewiston April Ice, The Women's Center, Coeur d'Alene Anthony Anegon, Second District Bar Association, Lewiston Charles Graham, Second District Bar Association, Moscow Nicholas Bokides, Third District Bar Association, Nampa Nicholas Bokides, Third District Bar Association, October NICIUIAS DUKIDES, ITIITU DISTRICT DAR ASSOCIATION, NAMPA Dayo Onanubosi, Third District Bar Association, Caldwell KoDoc Arin Mostorn Moho Community Action Decem-KaDee Agin, Western Idaho Community Action Program, Payette Cathy Beck, YWCA, Lewiston Jacque Palmer, Fourth District Bar Association, Boise Deborah Ferguson, Idaho State Bar Association, Boise EVa Lopez, women and Unildren's Alliance, Boise Nary Helen Weeks, Southeastern Idaho Community Action, Pocatello Mary Brown Seventh District Bar Accordation Idaho Falle Eva Lopez, Women and Children's Alliance, Boise Steve Brown, Seventh District Bar Association, Idaho Falls Boyd Peterson, Seventh District Bar Association, Firth Laci Olson, Eastern Idaho Head Start, Rexburg

Boise Service Office 310 N. 5th Street P. O. Box 1683 Boise, ID 83701 (208) 345-0106 (208) 454-2591

Caldwell Service Office 1104 Blaine Street P.O. Box 1116 Caldwell, ID 83606

Idaho Lesal Aid Services Inc. Boise, ID 83701

Phone (208) 336-8980

Coeur d'Alene Service Office 410 Sherman Avenue, No. 303 P. O. Box 1439 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 (208) 667-9559

Idaho Falls Service Office 482 Constitution Way, Ste. 101 Idaho Falls, ID 83402 (208) 524-3660

ewiston **Service Office** 633 Main Street P. O. Box 973 Lewiston, ID 83501

Grapes Against Wrath

Pocatello Service Office 150 S. Arthur, No. 203 P. O. Box 1785 Pocatello, ID 83204 (208) 743-1556 (208) 233-0079

Twin Falls Office 475 Polk P. O. Box 1296 Twin Falls, ID 83303 (208) 734-7024

Administration Office 310 N. 5th Street P. O. Box 913 Boise, ID 83701 (208) 336-8980

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