

## **Idaho Legal Aid Services, Inc.**

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## **Idaho Legal Aid Services Fall Newsletter 2011** <sup>[1]</sup>

# Idaho Poverty Law Journal

The Newsletter of Idaho Legal Aid Services

Fall 2011



## **Greetings!**

I hope you are enjoying our glorious Idaho autumn. I want to update you as to how Idaho Legal Aid Services is working to serve the civil legal needs of poor Idahoans across our great state. We are excited about new projects and collaborations which will enable us to better serve our clients and benefit Idaho communities. This good work is made possible by supporters such as you who enable us to represent domestic violence and sexual assault victims, abused and neglected children, veterans, seniors, persons with disabilities, homeowners facing wrongful foreclosures and other vulnerable Idahoans. With your continued support Idaho Legal Aid Services will get through these difficult financial times, end monthly furloughs and return staff to former levels so we can restore and expand services to Idahoans.

Sincerely,  
Ernesto Sanchez  
Executive Director  
Idaho Legal Aid Services

**Idaho Legal Aid Services awarded grant to form  
Idaho Identity Theft Coalition.**

We are proud to announce that Idaho Legal Aid Services is one of only ten organizations selected to participate in a National Identity Theft Victims Assistance Networks Project grant. This national scope project seeks to expand and improve the outreach and capacity of victim service programs to address the rights and needs of victims of identity theft. The project is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, and administered through the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center which will provide training, technical assistance, and programmatic and financial oversight to Idaho Legal Aid Services (ILAS).



According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), around 12 million or 5% of Americans over the age of 16 became victims of identity theft in the two year period ending in June 2008. Financial identity theft is only part of the overall picture; over 600,000 victims experienced other types of identity theft, including criminal, medical and interfamilial identity theft. Fifty-three percent of victims reported moderate to severe distress from the identity theft, according to a recent report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Recovering victims spent an average of \$1,870 in out-of-pocket costs. Over 3 million experienced issues such as having utilities cut off, being arrested, finding erroneous claims on their health records, having child support garnished for children they never had and being harassed by collection agencies.

Identity theft is a growing problem in Idaho. In 2010, the Consumer Sentinel Network (an online database of consumer complaints available to law enforcement) received 729 Idaho identity theft reports. This number was double the 361 Idaho identity theft complaints filed with the FTC in 2002. The 2010 Idaho complaints were as follows:

Type	Complaints	Percentage
Credit Card Fraud	117	16%
Employment-Related Fraud	101	14%
Phone or Utilities Fraud	97	13%
Government Documents or Benefits Fraud	88	12%
Bank Fraud	78	11%
Loan Fraud	25	3%
Other	186	26%

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Printed: June 25, 2021

<http://www.idaholegalaid.org/node/2091/idaho-legal-aid-services-fall-newsletter-2011>

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