



IDAHO
BUSINESS REVIEW

LEADERS IN LAW 2020

PRESENTED BY



University of Idaho
College of Law

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



In the criminal justice system —at least as we see it on television — we get an unrealistic look at the legal profession. Lawyers are nearly always rich. Lawyers are nearly always young and physically attractive. And, most of all, lawyers always solve their cases within an hour.

In the real world, it doesn't work that way.

Not all of our honorees are rich. Not all of our honorees are young or look like movie stars. (Sorry.) And most of all, some of them spend hours, days, weeks, even years, working on their cases.

What they are is dedicated to their jobs and to their professions. The men and women you'll read about are doing honorable work in a variety of disciplines and locales.

Our honorees range from up-and-coming attorneys just a few years into the profession to partners on the verge of

retirement.

We have several "legacy" attorneys, who entered the legal profession because of family members — sometimes multiple generations of them — who were lawyers. Others never even thought about going to law school until a mentor suggested it to them.

Some of our honorees entered the legal profession to help big corporations, while others entered it to help protect children. And, like *Law & Order*, there are both prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys.

There are attorneys who work for big legal firms, and others who just recently stuck out their shingle.

And, of course, we have our Lifetime Achievement honoree, who has set an example of decorum and civility that all Idahoans could stand to follow.

They touch all parts of our community, and we are better for it.

Even if we don't see them on TV.

Sharon Fisher

Interim Editor

Idaho Business Review

PRESENTING SPONSOR

The University of Idaho College of Law



Congratulations to the 2020 Leaders in Law honorees. The University of Idaho College of Law is honored to be a presenting sponsor for the eighth year in a row, and we are proud to see many of our family among those recognized.

For more than a century, the University of Idaho College of Law has prepared state and national leaders in law, business, and public service. As our graduate honorees exemplify, the University of Idaho College of Law produces "leaders in law" who serve their communities in private practice, the judiciary, government, business, education, and public interest.

The University of Idaho continues a tradition of excellence with its statewide mission of delivering an affordable, public, legal education. As part of that mission, the College of Law has developed a focused, high-quality curriculum, offered in its entirety at our Moscow and Boise locations.

Once again, congratulations to all being honored this year.

Jerrold A. Long

Dean

IDAHO BUSINESS REVIEW

For information about other editorial supplements, email
csuffa@idahobusinessreview.com

P.O. Box 8866 | Boise, ID 83707
4696 W. Overland Road, Ste. 180
Boise, Idaho 83705

phone 208-336-3768
fax 208-336-5534
news@idahobusinessreview.com
idahobusinessreview.com

GROUP PUBLISHER

Lisa Blossman
lblossman@npg.com

PUBLISHER

Cindy Suffa
csuffa@idahobusinessreview.com

INTERIM EDITOR

Sharon Fisher
sfisher@idahobusinessreview.com

LEADERS IN LAW WRITERS

Kevin Opsahl, Logan Potter,
DeWitt Smith, Brooke Strickland,
Adam Thompson

MULTIMEDIA SALES EXECUTIVES

Autumn Kersey
akersey@idahobusinessreview.com

Jeanette Trompczynski
jtrompczynski@idahobusinessreview.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Nicole Haggard
nhaggard@molawyersmedia.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ PUBLIC NOTICE/PERMITS/ REPRINTS

publicnotice@idahobusinessreview.com
reprints@idahobusinessreview.com

Laura Clements
lbutler@idahobusinessreview.com

WEB EDITOR

Rick Benedict
rbenedict@idahobusinessreview.com

For advertising, email
advertising@idahobusinessreview.com

To subscribe or change your address, email
service@bridgetowermedia.com
idahobusinessreview.com

© 2020 Idaho Business Review Inc.
All rights reserved

CONTENTS

Bart M. Davis.....	4
Hannah Andazola.....	6
Clinton Casey.....	7
Laura Prew Fouser	8
Sherman F. Furey III.....	9
Benjamin Gibbons.....	10
Scott Learned.....	11
Jetta Mathews.....	12
Brad Miller.....	13
Tom Mortell.....	14
Taylor Mossman-Fletcher.....	15
Kent Nelson.....	16
Rand Peebles.....	17
Michael Porter.....	18
Steven Price.....	19
Melanie Rubocki.....	20
Connie Runia.....	21
Erik Stidham.....	22
Austin Strobel.....	23
Matthew Taylor.....	24
William Young.....	25

SPONSORED BY



boise | centre

VIRTUAL CELEBRATION SPONSORS

A10 CAPITAL
ACHD
BALSAM BRANDS
BRIGHT BANK
COLUMBIA BANK
D.L. EVANS BANK
FISHER'S TECHNOLOGY
HAWLEY TROXELL
HOLLAND & HART
HORIZON CREDIT UNION
IDAHO FIRST BANK
KEYBANK
NORTHWEST FARM CREDIT SERVICES
NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL
PERKINS COIE
PKG
PRIME LENDING
SMITH + MALEK
TAYLOR MOSSMAN-FLETCHER
ZIONS BANK



Bart M. Davis

DISTRICT OF IDAHO
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

By Sharon Fisher
Interim Editor

Bart Davis was winding up a successful 20-year career as an Idaho state senator when something unexpected happened.

Republican Donald Trump was elected President.

That gave Davis the opportunity to fulfill a lifelong dream.

"I contacted Senators Crapo and Risch's chiefs of staff," Davis said. "As you consider U.S. Attorney names and recommendations, I would appreciate it my name could be considered."

Davis, an avuncular 65, wears his heart on his sleeve more than one might expect of an attorney. He speaks unabashedly of his admiration for his parents — both alive at 91 — and his love for his wife Marion, a former schoolteacher, his six children and "a bunch of grandbabies."

"She's so dang smart," he said of his wife of 44 years. "I'm the luckiest guy in all the state of Idaho."

In particular, Davis has spoken heartfully of his son Cameron, who died in a shooting at an off-campus party at Boise State University in 2003, Davis' first year as majority leader, during the longest legislative session in Idaho history.

"That was a hard year," he reflected. "The loss of my son is the most difficult time of my life. It probably made me more aware of any time there's a lost child or the loss of a family member. I love the lessons I learned. I just hated how I had to learn it."

Davis' reputation in the Idaho Senate, where he ascended to majority leader, was one of civility and decorum.

"I never thought I should take the floor in a direction they didn't see coming," he said. "I owed it to the minority leader to never embarrass the minority leader in front of his or her caucus. I was blessed with some of the best minority leaders in history. If I'm going to reorder the bills, I owe her the courtesy of a phone call or a visit. If Idaho knows we're playing a straight game — explaining not just to the Senate but to the press and not online — they have greater confidence in their government that there's not gamesmanship going on in the Senate."

The Legislature was criticized during the special session in August for how it responded to protests. "Free speech is not

always comfortable," Davis said, noting he'd seen protests during his tenure. "And there are well-meaning groups, as they delivered their message, did it so ineffectively they hurt their cause, and their cause had value."

While Davis still visits with legislators like Speaker of the House Scott Bedke and former Senator Joe Stegner, he does so personally, not professionally, he said. They don't talk shop.

"Bart Davis is an articulate, intelligent, sensitive, principled man," said Bedke, in an email message. "Sarah and I are privileged to call him and Marion friends. I miss him in the Idaho Senate."

DAVIS' RESPECT FOR THOSE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE IS RETURNED

"Bart has been a steady public servant voice to lead the U.S. Attorney's Office over the last three years," said former U.S. Attorney Wendy Olson, appointed by President Barack Obama in 2010, in an email message. "I have appreciated his thoughtful approach to joining an institution, the U.S. Department of Justice, with a long and rich history, and a long and rich history in Idaho. Representing the federal government in fiercely independent Idaho is

a challenge. Bart's experience working with Idahoans from across the state has been critical to the U.S. Attorney's Office continuing its important work."

The U.S. Attorney's office is the litigation wing of the federal government in Idaho, Davis explained, with 70% prosecution of federal crimes and 30% civil litigation. When Davis was appointed, he consulted with both Olson and her Republican predecessor, Tom Moss, for advice.

"Both gave me the same answer," Davis said. "Your primary legacy isn't cases or issues, it's the people you hire. I wanted those who believed in the mission. I didn't care about gender or ethnicity or orientation. Those things are not issues."

"Some tried to boast their politics," he added. "That usually worked against them."

Now, Davis is in the opposite position from when he started — waiting for the results of the November election to see whether he'll keep his job. Plus, he serves at the pleasure of the President no matter who's in office.

While Davis may have checked U.S. Attorney off his bucket list, he still has goals, which he wouldn't share. In the meantime, "it's beyond my control," he said. "It's a privilege to serve as long as I get to serve."

"I wanted those who believed in the mission. I didn't care about gender or ethnicity or orientation."



“As a teenager I definitely had the mindset of ‘Oh, I’m not going to do what my parents did.’”

Hannah Andazola

SMITH + MALEK
ASSOCIATE

By Adam Thompson
Special to the Idaho Business Review

When Hannah Andazola started at Gonzaga University, she had no intention of following both of her parents’ footsteps and going into law.

“As a teenager I definitely had the mindset of ‘Oh, I’m not going to do what my parents did, of course,’” she said.

Instead, at Gonzaga, she just took the classes she found most interesting. Over the next four years, she double-majored in political science and international relations, taking a lot on her plate but with no dream job in mind. Taking the classes she wanted to take eventually led her down the path towards a career in law.

“Political science kind of lines you up for a career in academia or a career in law, so I ended up doing the law route,” said Andazola.

After graduating from Gonzaga, Andazola came to Boise State University to earn her master’s degree in health science, beginning to

imagine her future as an attorney.

“I earned my degree during the time that all of the Obamacare changes were happening. And I decided that that degree, meshed with a law degree, would be a good way to make a difference... The health law sector was really changing at that time and that’s what I decided I wanted to do.”

But her education didn’t end there. Instead, she continued down the law path, taking on many responsibilities while earning her law degree at University of Idaho. In her four years there, Andazola interned and assisted at St. Luke’s, Christian & Hardee and Alta Mesa Holdings.

After finishing her education, Andazola started her career at Smith + Malek, where she has been working for just under two years.

Andazola was right. Her master’s in health science and law degree meshed well and the people she is working with are thanking her for her knowledge in the field, especially now.

“I do primarily transactional work for health care facilities, so we have been very busy as they figure out how to navigate all the COVID changes,” said Andazola.

Starting at Gonzaga in 2010, Andazola didn’t have a dream job in mind, but it seems as though today she’s found it.

“I love the clients we get to work with. We work with federally qualified health centers, and it is really cool to be a part of the way they serve the community, communities around them and how they reach underserved populations. I like that aspect and I like that every day is new. There is no question that there’s always something new coming up, so it really keeps me on my toes, keeps me learning and keeps me interested,” she said.

Andazola said if she could say one thing to her college self, the one unsure of her future career, she would say, “Keep working hard, because your hard work will pay off and you will get to a place where you will have a really rewarding career.”



“I don’t have any grand goals to change the world from some legal decision, but I do have a goal to always treat people kindly and civilly and to always be prepared for my client.”

Clinton Casey

CASEY LEGAL GROUP
OWNER

By Logan Potter
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Clinton Casey’s desired impact as a leader in law is a simple one: he wants to be known for his kindness, preparation and professionalism. It isn’t about a grand goal, but rather an individual impact in his work.

“This is probably going to seem strange, but I just want to be known as somebody who is professional, civil in my dealings with everyone, that I treated everyone with respect,” Casey said. “And I came prepared. It’s that simple and basic. I don’t have any grand goals to change the world from some legal decision, but I do have a goal to always treat people kindly and civilly and to always be prepared for my client.”

And prepared he is. One of Casey’s most innovative solutions and rippling results in law came in the case of Matt Morgan, a businessman and survivor of child sex abuse who wanted to fight back against his uncle, the man who abused him. Long after the criminal statute of limitations, Casey was tasked with

finding a way to seek punishment and get justice for the experience that Morgan endured in his childhood.

“As a lawyer, what you really want to do is be a good lawyer, right?” Casey said. “And that means getting your client’s wishes handled in the best way that you can.”

Casey said he fought “tooth and nail” to ensure that Morgan’s case made it in front of a jury, and the case based on fraud — which has a different statute of limitations — won the court. Morgan went on to start the nonprofit Building Hope Today, and Casey has continued to dedicate himself to the fulfillment of his clients and, especially during the pandemic, his staff.

When Casey opened his new firm this summer, he brought on every member of his staff from the previous firm. Carolyn Casey, Clint Casey’s wife and nominator for Leaders in Law, explained that, outside of innovation of the legal profession, one of his outstanding

leadership qualities is his politeness and respect to everyone he works with.

He hired the staff to avoid leaving them jobless during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Carolyn said the decision came at a “huge personal financial risk” for the lawyer. That transition for Clint and his staff is just one example, according to Carolyn, of his dedication to inclusion and comfort for his team.

“Clint loves to be a team player and even recently named his new firm Casey Legal Group to honor that his employees are part of the ‘group’ that makes them all successful on behalf of their clients,” Carolyn said. “... As a result, people feel included and are often involved with projects they would not have the chance to be in other firms. Because Clint was allowed to test out all sorts of new skill areas as a young associate, Clint pays that forward by letting any person who works for him grow into new, interesting areas.”



“Lawyers often have a reputation of seeking out conflict, but in reality, so much of the law is about finding solutions that are creative and mutually beneficial.”

Lauren Prew Fouser

HOLLAND & HART
ASSOCIATE

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Lauren Prew Fouser is a corporate attorney who has accomplished big things early on in her career. A Boise native, Fouser left the state to complete her undergraduate degree at Texas A & M. She then went on to finish law school at Michigan State University in 2014, where she graduated cum laude. After practicing law in Texas for several years, she headed back to Idaho to put down roots with her family and launch into the rest of her career.

Today, Fouser serves as an associate for Holland & Hart in Boise. In this position, she works with clients ranging from early stage startups to large private companies. She often works with clients in the fields of food and beverage, technology and cybersecurity. Whether it is helping with day-to-day issues, corporate contracting or other employment issues that come with running a company, Fouser

advocates with her clients on their behalf to come up with the best solution and plan possible.

In addition to her expertise in corporate law, she also brings health care law experience to the firm. In the past, she has assisted physicians, hospitals and pharmacies in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, asset purchases, and much more.

Describing Fouser in her nomination letter, Holland & Hart Marketing & Business Development Manager Laura Squyres wrote, “Lauren may be young, but she is definitely a rising star in our office. She has been a great fit from both a work and cultural perspective. She always has a smile on her face and genuinely cares about those she works with. I think she brings a great perspective to a lot of projects, and always has value to add to any conversation. I know she’ll do great things in her legal career.”

Outside of the office, Fouser has served

pro bono for Boise Pride, helping counsel on governance and business matters, and she previously served as a member of the board of trustees for Boise Contemporary Theater. She has also taught multiple legal courses for college students at Concordia, Michigan State and Boise State University.

Fouser said, “Corporate attorneys aren’t necessarily the type of lawyer that come to mind when you think about the legal profession, but I feel lucky to have ended up in this field — it’s one of the few types of law in which adverse parties are usually on the same side, collaborating to get a deal done. Lawyers often have a reputation of seeking out conflict, but in reality, so much of the law is about finding solutions that are creative and mutually beneficial. To me, that’s the best part of practice.”



“I appreciate the opportunity to work in a setting that allows me to practice law without the restrictions of the billable hour.”

Sherman F. Furey III

IDAHO ATTORNEY GENERAL
CHIEF DEPUTY

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Sherman “Sherm” Furey III is an attorney who leads by example. He has been a Deputy Attorney General with the Office of the Attorney General for over 21 years and has served as Chief Deputy Attorney General for the past 18 years. During his tenure, he has seen a multitude of changes, but throughout it all, he has led with precision and authority. Whether it’s budget holdbacks, political challenges, a recession or a worldwide pandemic, Furey has demonstrated his ability to work tirelessly on behalf of the Attorney General’s Office. Because of his vision and hands-on leadership, the office has been able to grow into what it is today.

Attorney General Lawrence Wasden wrote in his nomination letter for Furey, “Sherm Furey represents the very best of the legal community as an attorney and as a leader of

attorneys. Under his stewardship, the Office of the Attorney General has become one of the leading resources for attorneys seeking employment, knowledge, and leadership. The improvements Sherm has helped make to Idaho’s public sector legal community will be his long-term legacy.”

Some of Furey’s most notable accomplishments during his career include working with the Idaho legislature and law enforcement agencies around the state to institute an Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. This has played an instrumental role in how authorities respond to the threat of online stalkers or other harmful people who pose a threat to kids and families. He has also worked with the legislature to develop a Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, which helps identify, investigate and prosecute Medicaid

fraud. These two examples are just a glimpse into the far-reaching positive impact that Furey has made on the state and its citizens.

Furey said, “One of the most rewarding parts of my job is the ability to work with highly competent lawyers and staff members in representing the best legal interests of the state of Idaho. I appreciate the opportunity to work in a setting that allows me to practice law without the restrictions of the billable hour. Every day, my colleagues and I have the opportunity to do pure legal work that will have lasting effects on the lives of Idahoans, well beyond our time in the office. I’ve been fortunate for much of my career to work with others who are also driven by the desire to make a difference in the lives of Idaho citizens. I hope this award serves as an affirmation of their work as much as mine.”



“He is constantly looking for ways to provide insights to clients to effectively and efficiently address their legal compliance requirements.”

Benjamin Gibbons

HOLLAND & HART
ASSOCIATE

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Those who work alongside Benjamin Gibbons will say that he is a committed lawyer who lives by his philosophy to lead by example. He is accessible and approachable, always maintaining an open-door policy that creates an atmosphere of respect. Gibbons started his career as a certified public accountant but decided that law was where his real passion was. He graduated from New England School of Law in 2011 and hit the ground running with work as a lawyer in Boston. His combination of accounting experience and legal training gives him unique insight into how things look from a client's perspective.

Today, as an associate at Holland & Hart, Gibbons focuses on tax and benefits, ERISA and benefits litigation and employee benefits and executive compensation. Some of his primary duties include providing legal advice on the design, implementation and administration of qualified retirement plans and welfare benefit plans.

Benefits law can be a niche practice area,

making Gibbons' work valuable to the community at large. This was especially evident when the pandemic hit, and he worked to help businesses that had to make decisions that affected employee benefits or retirement plans. He continued to stay on top of regulatory changes and reached out to clients to ensure that they could come up with a forward-thinking approach that minimized problems later down the road.

Holland & Hart Marketing & Business Development Manager Laura Squyres described Gibbons in her nomination letter, “I know he's made an impact on the attorneys he works with — they value his subject-matter expertise and have been impressed with his work ethic and his commitment to his clients. He is constantly looking for ways to provide insights to clients to effectively and efficiently address their legal compliance requirements. Ben has been a great addition to our office.”

Since arriving in Boise a little over a year ago, Gibbons has already made it a point to

become active in the local community. He volunteers with the Boise Bicycle Project and has also worked with the Idaho Food Bank. He has also remained involved as a member of the Advisory Board for the Pension Action Center, a Boston-based organization that offers free legal counseling for workers and retirees to understand their rights on pension benefits. He has also spoken on the topic of employee benefits for companies and industry organizations such as AmeriBen's Annual Leadership Conference as well as the Western Pension and Benefits Council's Idaho Chapter.

Gibbons said, “Clients are the best part of my job. It always feels very rewarding to work with them to resolve their problems. It has been a little over a year since I relocated from the East Coast, and I'm excited to continue to make connections and build relationships in the Boise community. I am honored to be recognized as an up-and-coming Leader in the Law here.”



“The effects of child abuse and neglect are hard to wrap your brain around. It crushes a child.”

Scott Learned

LEARNED LAWYER, PLLC
OWNER

By DeWitt Smith

Special to the Idaho Business Review

Not everyone can claim to have worked for the CIA, but Scott Learned can. Not as a spy, but as an intern. Even so!

But first, the back story. Like many, he started out in one field only to discover engineering was not for him. After his second year at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Learned was working for a temp agency at the Ada County offices, and that’s where his ah-ha moment arrived.

“I was impressed by what I saw in the Civil Division,” he said.

Knowing he’d found his calling, he headed for Georgetown University law school and graduated in 2001. “It was a great time to be a law student and in Washington,” Learned said.

That’s when he was hired to be an intern at the CIA, and then moved up to being a paralegal at the agency to work on briefs to be heard at the Supreme Court. “It was pretty heady stuff,” Learned, now 44, said.

When he got back to Boise, he worked at Hall, Farley Oberrecht & Blanton as an associate attorney and worked on employment litigation,

defending employers, for five years. But he left in 2006 because of burnout.

“I took six months off, and during that time, someone said he thought I’d make a great teacher,” he recalls.

So he taught at a private school. He enjoyed teaching and creating good relationships. But five years later, he was drawn back into law. “I did some career searching and cases found me through word of mouth,” he said.

Around that time, someone asked him to prepare a will. He had worked at Concordia University Law School in Boise, where he taught a course in wills and trusts.

Learned opened his own estate planning practice in 2017. It checked the boxes of things he wanted to do: build relationships with clients on a long-term basis. It’s an ongoing legal service, he said.

Now he has a full-time paralegal and a half-time administrator.

While doing pro bono cases, he discovered the CASA program — court appointed special advocates — for when a child in foster care needs

a lawyer in court. A Guardian Ad Litem is court-appointed and speaks on the child’s behalf.

“I have three or four cases going all the time. It became quite clear, quite quickly, that Boise is not different from any other town, and that means some children need some adults to step in, to advocate for them.”

Learned remarried about a year ago, and he and his wife have three children between them.

“Being a parent helps me with the cases. Also, I’ve done a lot of divorce and custody work, so I know what the struggles of parenting look like, and what parenting looks like,” he said.

He’s also seen the symptoms of bad parenting; child neglect is the cause of the “failure-to-grow” syndrome.

“The effects of child abuse and neglect are hard to wrap your brain around. It crushes a child,” he said. “This is when a child needs an advocate to protect his or her legal needs.”

Public service? You bet. It’s leadership to protect the needs of those who are vulnerable and can’t speak up for themselves.



“We are blessed to have many great attorneys who ably advocate for their clients, while still being great friends and colleagues.”

Jetta Mathews

HAWLEY TROXELL
ATTORNEY

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Jetta Mathews demonstrates leadership and vision with each client she works with at Hawley Troxell. She is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Idaho College of Law and has focused her career on several key practice areas, including commercial litigation, medical malpractice defense and workers' compensation defense.

Mathews has worked on a variety of cases, including business disputes, personal injury cases and property damage claims, and she has a background in legal research and writing. To ensure her clients get the best representation and advice, she continues to hone her skills by observing other partners at the firm as well as other experienced community leaders. No matter what specific issue she is working on, Mathews proves her dedication to the field of law, so clients come

out the other side with a favorable result.

In her nomination letter for Mathews, Hawley Troxell Marketing and Business Development Manager Kim Kaine wrote, “Jetta is a young, smart, and ambitious attorney. She is gracious and shares her knowledge and support to younger attorneys, as well as staff. I would like to see her honored, as she is truly a quiet, hardworking, and strong attorney who gives so much of her time to others. She is always eager to learn and step up to the plate.”

Outside of her work at the firm, Mathews is a volunteer with the Idaho Volunteer Lawyer Program and is a member of Project Linus, a group that makes blankets and quilts for children experiencing crisis. She also serves as the vice president of the Sixth District Bar Association, where she has

served for four years.

Mathews said, “I enjoy being an attorney because of the people who I work with. I enjoy helping people. One of the great things about practicing in Idaho is the collegial relationship between the members of the bar. We are blessed to have many great attorneys who ably advocate for their clients, while still being great friends and colleagues. These relationships make practicing law more fulfilling and less stressful, and benefit clients by helping cases get resolved more efficiently. I am honored to practice in a firm that supports each individual professionally, but also sees them as real people with homes and lives outside of work. I have been blessed to have many outstanding mentors throughout my career who have helped me become the attorney I am today.”



“We have the luxury of continual growth and our profession allows us to give our clients peace of mind.”

Brad Miller

HAWLEY TROXELL
PARTNER/ATTORNEY

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Brad Miller is an experienced lawyer who serves with precision, passion and expertise. As a partner for Hawley Troxell, he serves as the chair of the firm’s litigation department. In those positions, he oversees important decision-making for the company, but no matter what is thrown his way, he leads with a voice of reason, kindness and humor. Coworkers describe him as someone who generously gives of his time. They also refer to him as an exceptional collaborator who easily provides sage advice. He is also skilled in providing each person a sense of ownership in their tasks.

After graduating summa cum laude from the University of Idaho Law School, Miller set out to make a difference in his legal career. Today, he is a member of the employment practice group, where he has represented a variety of

corporate clients during his nearly four decades as an attorney.

In this position, Miller offers employers assistance in employment disputes, employee termination and discipline, employment discrimination and trade secret litigation. He has advocated for his clients inside of state and federal courts, as well as state agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Idaho Human Rights Commission, and more. During his career, he has been recognized for his achievements in law. He holds the highest rating from Martindale-Hubbell, AV and has been recognized by Chambers & Partners for Labor and Employment Law.

When describing Miller in her nomination letter, Hawley Troxell Marketing and Business Development Manager Kim Kaine wrote, “Brad

should be honored, as he is a true leader with his clients, his peers, our associate attorneys, and staff. He cares deeply for all. You always learn when working with Brad. I have worked alongside him for six years and have the utmost respect for not only his knowledge of law, but for his kindness and sense of humor.”

Outside of the office, Miller sits on the board for Dress Success and is also vice president of the board for Ballet Idaho. He is also a frequent lecturer and provides training in all areas of employment law.

Miller said, “As a lawyer, you never stop learning. We have the luxury of continual growth and our profession allows us to give our clients peace of mind. I am honored to be alongside my peers — past and present Leaders in Law.”



“Clients are often in tough situations and I enjoy helping them navigate their way out of bad things.”

Tom Mortell

HAWLEY TROXELL
PARTNER

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Tom Mortell can be described as a strong and fair leader who listens well and quietly evaluates each situation with great skill and wisdom. Practicing law for more than two decades has given him a multitude of complex legal projects and experiences. These have allowed him to serve clients of all kinds — especially those in the health care field. As the chair of the firm’s health law group and the Board of Partners, his primary focus is to advise hospitals and other health care providers in the area of health care law. Whether it is business transactions, acquisition of physician practices, professional service contracts or the formation of entities jointly owned by hospitals and doctors, Mortell takes the time to become well-versed in the complexities of each client’s case.

During his career, he has represented

several significant joint ventures and business transactions for clients. Some of the most notable include the acquisition of a 10-physician practice for a hospital client, the conversion of a county hospital to a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and a joint venture of an imaging center with physician investors. Mortell also has experience advising health care clients on issues related to HIPAA compliance in addition to fraud and abuse regulations on the state and federal level.

Describing Mortell in her nomination letter, Hawley Troxell Marketing and Business Development Manager Kim Kaine wrote, “Tom is a strong and decisive leader. He listens, he hears, and he does not judge. He sees and understands the big picture, as well as respects those with concern for the day. He weighs decisions very fairly. I have the utmost respect for Tom as an attorney, a firm and community

leader, and a person. He is a generous man.”

Outside of the office, Mortell is involved in the community, serving as a board member for Boise Valley Economic Partnership and as a Health Care Subcommittee Member for the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry. He also sits as the Board Chair Elect for the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce. He is a regular author and contributor to business journals and other industry publications.

Mortell said, “As an attorney, I enjoy the opportunity to build relationships with interesting and cool people. Whether clients or my colleagues at the firm, getting to know others and learning from them is very rewarding. Clients are often in tough situations and I enjoy helping them navigate their way out of bad things. I’m honored by this award and grateful to be recognized for the opportunities I’ve had to help lead our firm.”



*“I’m carrying
on a family
tradition.”*

Taylor Mossman-Fletcher

MOSSMAN LAW OFFICE
OWNER/ATTORNEY

By DeWitt Smith
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Leadership comes in all sorts of forms. Some are more obvious and visible than others. But there are other traits, many intangible, about what describes or makes a leader. One such characteristic is duty. The sense of duty is really a calling that one answers.

A case in point is the career of Taylor Mossman-Fletcher.

That’s exactly what Taylor Mossman-Fletcher has done. She is a fifth-generation attorney. For four generations, her family has been in the practice of law, and in the DNA scheme of things, her forebears have handed down their legally trained brains and skills to her. But, in fact, she’s an exception to the family tradition. Mossman-Fletcher, 41, is the first female in the legal lineage.

Asked the obvious question of what drew her to the law, she answered simply, “I’m carrying on a family tradition.”

Her family migrated to Idaho from Iowa and Illinois, and Mossman-Fletcher grew up in Boise, and in high school, was a cheerleader and played

basketball. She also loved skiing, backpacking and hiking.

But during those years was when she was first involved with community service, such as working with the homeless and the Boise Foodbank and volunteering for highway cleanup.

After graduating from the University of Colorado in Boulder, she earned her law degree at the University of Idaho.

“I knew at that point that going to law school would open up a lot of opportunities,” she said. “Law school was really hard, but I really thrived there. There was a tight-knit environment. After your first year, you can take focus classes. But I stuck with a normal curriculum.”

Mossman-Fletcher followed a traditional route after law school: she was a law clerk in Pocatello in 2006-07 and then worked for Comstock and Bush for four years.

“I did trial work and prepared cases to go to trial. It was baptism by fire,” she admitted.

At that point, she became engaged and was looking for some flexibility at work. And because

her personal life was going to be entwined with her professional life, she realized she was going to have to change jobs. As good fortune would have it, the timing worked out for her to make a shift.

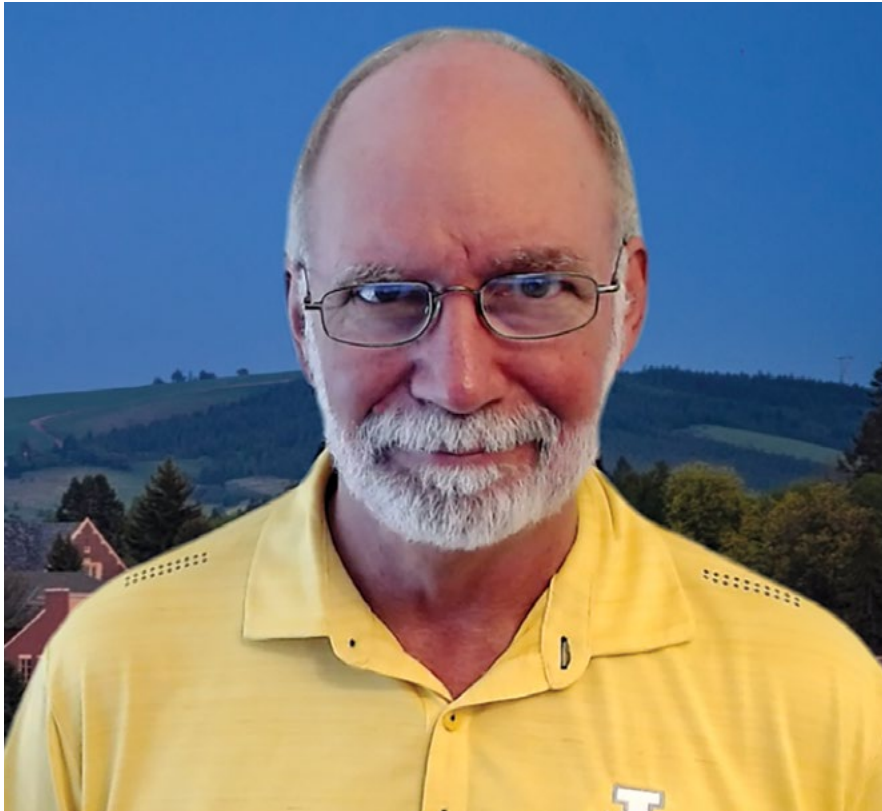
“My dad started working in the early ’80s; father was ready to retire after 40 years. The family firm focuses a lot on disability — workmen’s compensation disability,” she said.

When her father retired in 2014, she was ready to step in and pick up where he left off. For the past six years, in addition to work, she’s been busy with three young daughters.

Even though she’s a solo practitioner, she has hired an associate attorney and five legal assistants. She also says she feels fortunate to be her own boss.

“I think the practice of law is a huge privilege,” she said. “I’m not aware of any other profession that helps people with so much problem-solving. I help clients with a range of situations, from legal problems to social work.

“My clients are so grateful. It’s a wonderful feeling to know that I can make a difference in people’s lives. It’s a privilege to help.”



*“I’ve been here
for 10 years
and this
university
surprises me
every day.”*

Kent Nelson

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO
GENERAL COUNSEL

By Kevin Opsahl
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Asked about how he ended up practicing law, University of Idaho attorney Kent Nelson describes it as a “far from a seamless path.”

He attended U of I during part of his undergraduate years as a music major, having played trumpet all through high school under a teacher he greatly admired.

“I thought I was the best trumpet player in all of Salmon,” said Nelson, referring to his hometown. “It turned out I may have been, but that’s a whole lot different than coming to the University of Idaho. My first year was not all that great.”

He gained inspiration for a career in law after his freshman year, when he met some of his friends, including Sherman F. Furey III, chief deputy for the Idaho attorney general’s office, who is also a 2020 Leaders in Law honoree.

“As I was cowboying myself around the ranch in the wintertime and the plains in the summertime, I was thinking about what I was

going to do,” Furey said. “Sherm, my friend, was in the process of finishing an accounting degree and getting ready to go to law school. I said, ‘You know what, I like that.’ That was actually kind of the moment that turned me ... to my law degree.”

Decades later — with time both in private practice and the Idaho attorney general’s office under his belt — Nelson said goodbye to a career in law, ending it at the university, where he served as general counsel and earned his J.D.

Asked how he felt about retirement, Nelson was not sure because at the time he spoke with the Idaho Business Review he had agreed to stay on as special associate general counsel to train his successor, Jim Craig.

“It’s already a little bit different because we’re transitioning somebody else into the main role,” Nelson said. “The general counsel is the decision-maker for the office, so I’m getting used to that.”

For many years, Nelson had no idea he’d be an attorney for a higher education institution.

But it is his favorite job of them all.

“In fact, what I tell people is, it’s the hardest job I’ve ever loved,” said Nelson.

He went on to say “beyond a doubt” being general counsel of a university like Idaho’s presents many challenges, but “that’s what lawyers live for” because it does not involve repetition.

Nelson described the general counsel’s office as an “in-house firm” for the school, dealing with legal matters that come to them, including policies and employment. For other issues, such as litigation against the school, the general counsel outsources it to non-university attorneys, he said.

Despite not directly covering all issues, Nelson said working in the general counsel’s office is exhilarating.

“I remember having a conversation with one of my deputies at one point, who said, ‘Well, the university would never do this sort of a thing,’ and I kind of smiled and said, ‘I’ve been here for 10 years and this university surprises me every day,’” Nelson said.



“I get the biggest thrill out of seeing the look of ‘aha’ on my clients’ faces.”

Rand Peebles

POWER ENGINEERS
VICE PRESIDENT/GENERAL COUNSEL

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Rand Peebles set out on his journey to be a lawyer over 40 years ago. Since then, he has established himself as a respected and admired leader in the community and the field of law. His integrity and generosity make him stand out.

Peebles began work as a private practice lawyer in 1980, where he practiced real estate, construction, corporate and education law for 12 years. In 1992, he joined Hawley Troxell, bringing his long-time client base, which included corporations and public entities. His largest corporate client was POWER Engineers, where he served as a private practice partner, counseling and advising the company for over 21 years.

In 2008, he transitioned out of private practice to serve as General Counsel for POWER Engineers, a role that he works in today. In this position, he helps oversee

the legal business unit, where some of his responsibilities include contract management, compliance and ethics, governance and intellectual property and regulatory affairs. In the last 12 years, he was the only person in that department and today, there are 42 employees, including two Deputy General Counsels, eight attorneys and a diverse legal staff.

In her nomination letter for Peebles, Hawley Troxell Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer Susan Olson wrote, “He has been loyal to those around him, including his former firm, employer and his people, by taking deliberate measures to develop a team that will be well poised to step into his very big shoes when he retires this year. Rand’s distinctive career and his impact on organizations and individuals as well as his dedication to his legal profession makes a

strong candidate for this honor.”

Peebles has retirement on the horizon, but anyone who knows him understands that his impact on Idaho and the legal community will not be forgotten. He regularly devotes his generosity and time to the people here. He has made a powerful impact on the careers of other attorneys that he has worked with over the years and many of them consider Peebles as not just a professional mentor, but a friend.

Peebles said, “Our laws and society have become overly complicated. My biggest enjoyment is helping people untangle the complexity so they can make decisions that are best for them. I get the biggest thrill out of seeing the look of ‘aha’ on my clients’ faces. It is humbling to be recognized as a Leader in Law recipient and even more so to know I have friends who would nominate me for such an award.”



“If everyone’s rights are protected, if we protect the rights of those who struggle in our society, then everyone’s rights are sacred.”

Michael Porter

CANYON COUNTY PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE
LEAD DEPUTY PROSECUTOR

By Logan Potter
Special to the Idaho Business Review

A speeding ticket in California followed by self-representation in court to combat the fines was the fire that ignited Canyon County Prosecutor’s Office attorney Michael Porter’s passion for the legal system.

“I felt hopelessly outmatched by the prosecutor and the judge,” Porter said. “I didn’t like feeling like I was the only one who didn’t know what was going on.”

Along with some family influence from his grandfather, who worked in law enforcement, Porter explained that the experience started it all when it came to his decision to kickstart a career in law. Since then, he has curated a long tenure in the profession, including 14 years serving counties in southern Idaho.

Porter began as a public defender before making the transition to prosecution after facing challenges finding a job without starting his own firm, but the move from defense to prosecution was a rather smooth one. From public defense to

criminal prosecution to, now, civil prosecution, Porter’s philosophy has remained largely the same.

“I’m a big believer in, if everyone’s rights are protected, if we protect the rights of those who struggle in our society, then everyone’s rights are sacred,” Porter explained. “And I feel like it takes an attitude towards both defense and prosecution.”

But one of the moments that helped to shape Porter’s overall vision for law was an administrative model that would transition Canyon County from a contract public defense system to an in-house system. Not only would this provide consistency for the county, but affordability, too.

“Today we have, I think, 36 in-house public defenders, which means that they can focus on just defending cases rather than trying to run a firm or try to maintain a practice in a business outside,” Porter said.

That drive to make meaningful change from the inside-out appears to be common. Will Fletcher, house legal counsel at Zasio Enterprises

and Porter’s nominator, believes that Porter thrives on a platform built with pragmatism and thoughtfulness — and the aforementioned project seems to mirror that notion.

Fletcher explained that Porter is “not afraid to be a lone voice on an issue,” doing meaningful work and providing level-headed legal advice, but that isn’t the end of what makes his leadership style innovative in the law profession.

“[Mike’s] style, for sure, is to be well-informed and even keel. Where his leadership becomes innovative is how broad-based his decisions are,” Fletcher said. “As a prosecutor, it would be easy to get locked into a particular style of thinking and doing business and never change. But Mike doesn’t do that. He really gets out there in the world and into other areas of life, both to obtain different perspectives and to challenge his thoughts. He then, and without even thinking much about it much, makes sure to pass along what he’s learned to those around him.”

“When I worked in the law firm, I was fascinated by it, and I developed a sense that it was full of opportunities, particularly to learn all the time.”



Steven Price

ADA COUNTY HIGHWAY DISTRICT
GENERAL COUNSEL

By DeWitt Smith
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Boise native Steve Price started his legal career as a runner, and sort of hit the ground running, so to speak. He was a runner, and he explains what that is, for those who don't know.

“The office grunt, who fills in when someone needs a body!” said Price. “The runner delivers pleading to court filings, runs envelopes to other law firms and performs other office tasks like keeping the law library current, copying tasks, fill-in receptionist.”

In other words, it's your basic on-the-job training to get a taste of a law career. What drew him in the first place?

“When I was 15, I worked hard, and I had a friend who worked at the law firm, which then needed a runner,” Price said, describing how he got his foot in the door.

“When I worked in the law firm, I was fascinated by it, and I developed a sense that it was full of opportunities, particularly to learn all the time. I found it fascinating and cool, and it fit me,” he said.

When Price graduated from the University of Utah, he got a job as a runner at Parsons Behle & Latimer, an established law firm in Salt Lake City. “It wasn't long before they made me a paralegal. I did mining patent claims and some more grunt work. But it firmed up my feeling that I wanted to be a lawyer.”

When Price returned to Idaho, he took the usual route to his goal: University of Idaho College of Law, and a law firm internship at a medium-sized law firm, where he got a taste of what it was like working on some complex business things.

Then it was into the working world, and he joined Cosho Humphrey Greener & Welsch, where he was an associate for three years. And then in 1995, Price was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

“The doctors told me that a high-pressured lifestyle was not healthy. I had been offered a job as a general counsel, and so I took it,” Price said.

Now 58, he has been in-house general counsel for the Ada County Highway District for the past 18 years. He deals with heavy

industrial firms, and oversees a \$140 million budget and 400 employees.

More than ever, this is a time for leadership, in the face of a fatal virus. COVID-19 has not interrupted business as transportation is an essential service. It's a job where problem solving is a daily challenge.

“The first concern was the safety of all 400 employees. It's probably safer here than anyone's house; we've got Plexiglas all over the place,” he said. “Ada County is responsible for all the road transportation. We've got 5,500 lane miles that we have to maintain, construct and reconstruct.”

He values having one client and being part of a team to make the client successful. In this case, it's to serve all residents of Ada County. For Price, it's like community service.

“I take a lot of pride in overseeing the needs of the county and constantly like the challenge of learning and being active,” he said.

Married with four children, he counts himself fortunate to have both parents alive. “And I've got more hobbies than I've got time.”



“You could go through acres of weeds or you could go through a few feet of weeds.”

Melanie Rubocki

PERKINS COIE
OFFICE MANAGING PARTNER

By Kevin Opsahl
Special to the Idaho Business Review

In a video on her firm's website, Melanie Rubocki said “it’s fun to live the dream” with her emerging business clients..

But Rubocki, who works for Perkins Coie in Boise, never thought she’d be a lawyer. The woman with a family of accountants attended the prestigious Wharton School, earning a BA in psychology and a BS in economics. Then her college adviser suggested she go to law school.

“I loved negotiating, I loved the art of the deal, I loved the idea of buying and selling businesses and being part of working with management to facilitate transactions,” Rubocki said. “I just never thought of law as a means to accommodate that. Then, once I went to law school and started down that path, I realized that was a good marriage. It was a way to do what I liked in a way I could actually do it.”

She earned her J.D. in 1997 from the University of Notre Dame, where she says she “soaked up” classes in corporate law.

After that, Rubocki practiced in Chicago and

New York before moving west with her husband to Boise. They wanted to try a place with “less degrees of separation.”

“The way we were thinking about it is, you could go through acres of weeds or you could go through a few feet of weeds,” Rubocki said. “You could kind of jump into as part of the fray, quicker.”

Rubocki has lived in Treasure Valley for almost 20 years and is a managing partner with Perkins Coie at its Boise office, one of many locations for the international firm that employs thousands of attorneys.

“I’ve been here for 18 years, so I don’t have any immediate plans to go anywhere,” she said, adding she’d like to keep growing the business and mentoring her colleagues so “they can carry the baton someday when I’m not there anymore.”

Rubocki said what she loves about her job is that her clients are many businesses, not just one. She hopes that in partnering with them, she can “add value” that they would not otherwise have had.

But more than that, Rubocki said she has a “respect for the entrepreneur” because she is not

a businesswoman.

“There’s that, I don’t know if I’d otherwise be part of it,” she said.

Rubocki made a distinction between the type of law she practices, versus a litigator.

“Their client suffered something, they’re mad about something, they’re fighting someone about something — so they’re just trying to reach common ground again,” Rubocki said. “A lot of the work I’m doing, we’re starting from baseline and we’re building up.”

She said she helps businesses from “cradle to grave,” from inception to end. Rubocki does that in “three buckets” of ways she can help: providing outside counsel and working on corporate governance/finance as well as mergers and acquisitions.

In her website profile, Rubocki talks about working with businesses “at all levels of the life cycle,” including taking companies public.

Asked what’s the hardest part of her job, Rubocki laughed and responded that in fact the best and worst aspects are “dealing with people.”



*“Sometimes
I come into
the deal
not at
the beginning,
but at
the end.”*

Connie Runia

RUNIA LAW PLLC
ATTORNEY/OWNER

By DeWitt Smith
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Connie Runia admits that she's "a bit of a cowgirl," talking about her love of riding and her three horses. "I throw a saddle on my horse and ride extensively. It's really what I love."

Saddling up and going out riding for enjoyment is a good example of how to clear one's head, which is what good leadership requires: a clear head to make clear decisions.

Although Runia started out studying biology at Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa, she quickly discovered she didn't want to have a career in that field, and so she changed her major to a business degree. That in itself was an early example of her leadership: Correct a problem early on.

After earning her law degree at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, Runia worked for a law firm in Portland, Schwabe Williamson and Wyatt. That's where she developed her business acumen for corporate finance and transactional law.

"I'm a problem solver," she said, describing how

she gravitated to the field of corporate finance.

"I'm someone who likes to put things together and build around them. Sometimes I come into the deal not at the beginning, but at the end," she said.

Five years ago, she took the risk to go solo.

"I realized I was in corporate practice, that I was helping the firm achieve its own goals. And I wanted to achieve goals as I saw fit, to do it my own way. I've done some extensive networking, to build a network of attorneys whose expertise is outside of my area. I've done that so I can refer clients. That way, I'm not just solo in my practice," she said.

In addition, Runia, 59, has built a network of professional women.

"Some are business owners, and some work in the corporate world. It helps me keep my finger on the pulse of what my clients are going through. Frankly, it makes me a better attorney for my clients," Runia said. "I encourage women to exchange information, to connect."

Another aspect of her law practice is helping business people establish wills and trusts.

"And so I've set up a portion of my business to develop that and even real estate for my clients," she said. "I'm more of a relationship and listening, caring person. I truly get how business people are managing risks every day. And I'm here to help get it done," she said.

"I once represented a family that was having a difficult time in probate. With the proceeds, my client bought a property, with a bunkhouse. And in the wall of the bunkhouse was a book by the English poet, Sir Thomas More. It was a book of poetry signed in 1875.

"That experience had a hometown-attorney feel to it, and it made me appreciate the work I've done. It was an example of the personal touch I like to bring to all my work"

Runia's history is loaded with leadership qualities, but connecting with her clients is the biggest skill of all.



“It genuinely excites him to take on challenging, interesting work with his colleagues.”

Erik Stidham

HOLLAND & HART
PARTNER

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Erik Stidham is a Boise native who can be described as a tenacious litigator with a big heart for his clients. He thrives in taking on cases that others may shy away from. After graduating from law school in Virginia and practicing law in California for several years, he came back to Idaho to invest his knowledge in helping clients in the areas of commercial litigation, construction, insurance coverage and risk management. During his career, companies in more than 20 states have turned to Stidham's expertise to help them with their cases.

Today, Stidham is a partner for Holland & Hart, where he serves as the lead for the commercial litigation group. His dedication to the firm and each person who works there is evident. He is committed to making decisions that not only support the firm financially, but also decisions that keep the clients' best

interests in mind. Stidham uses his hands-on legal expertise and creativity to understand each client's complex needs. Knowing that each client is different, he works alongside them to see what the best outcome is and then work toward that, no matter how long it takes.

Stidham is also recognized as a thoughtful person who always focuses on building office morale and keeping team members connected. During the holidays, he is known to pick out gifts tailored to each recipient, and he even recently organized a virtual whiskey-tasting with fellow colleagues during the coronavirus shutdown.

In her nomination letter for Stidham, Holland & Hart Marketing & Business Development Manager Laura Squyres wrote, “Erik isn't afraid to take on the big cases — in fact, that's typically where he thrives. It genuinely excites him to take on challenging, interesting work with his colleagues. The more complex the case, the more at home he is. Erik is magnetic, using his sense of

humor to connect with his colleagues and clients. With an incredible work ethic, he leads by example, living by his own demanding standards. He never gives up. He is committed to his clients, no matter how difficult the problems they face are. Erik is truly a leader in our office. He is a force, and I can't imagine our office without him.”

Outside of his day-to-day work, Stidham serves as commissioner and president for the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission, where he has worked for the last five years. He has also served as his firm's board representative for two years with the Together Treasure initiative, where he participated in awarding grants for the community, including six local libraries and the Indian Creek Musical Art park.

Stidham said, “I enjoy working with smart and committed colleagues as a team, solving complex problems for our clients. It is an honor to get recognized in a community with such a strong bar.”



“What could I have done differently to make this outcome slightly better?”

Austin Strobel

HAWLEY TROXELL
ASSOCIATE/ATTORNEY

By Kevin Opsahl
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Growing up in Idaho Falls, Austin Strobel would often hear “war stories” in law practice because of an extraordinary family legacy: uncles on both sides of the tree chose careers in the field. One is an attorney; the other a magistrate judge.

“Both of those guys were great guys and role models for me,” said Strobel, who serves as associate counsel with Hawley Troxell. “That’s probably where my interest (in law) came from, initially.”

But he admits he was actually “on the fence” when he had to choose between law school and an MBA program where he’d been accepted. In the end, the “reading and writing sort of guy” Strobel considers himself to be won over any interest in math he might have had.

Strobel graduated from Utah State University in 2012 and went on to receive his J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law.

While many people in his field have bounced around law practices in major cities, Strobel

has served entirely at Hawley Troxell in Idaho after obtaining his license. It’s a narrow path he believes has served him well.

“Since law school, I think the goal has been to turn me into kind of the Swiss army knife, jack-of-all-trades health law attorney,” Strobel said.

His legal specialty is health care, assisting hospitals and providers with needs ranging from regulation compliance to malpractice defense, according to his firm’s website.

Asked in an interview why this legal specialty interests him so much, Strobel points to his father, a radiologist.

“Even though I knew I was more geared toward reading and writing than the math and numbers, it’s always been a field that’s been part of my life in one way or the other,” Strobel said.

Serving as a lawyer with a specialization in health care, however, wasn’t much of a choice for him.

“When I came on here (to Hawley Troxell) ... that’s where the need was,” Strobel said. “I didn’t

have a specific preference when I came out of law school.”

Health care law has proved to be a challenge, Strobel added. It’s a “highly regulated” area, one that forces lawyers like him to “always ... be on your toes.”

Taking on such cases makes him reflect on the importance of health care, particularly in the COVID-19 era. That, too, presents challenges for his career.

“I honestly don’t know that we’ve really seen yet the full effects of what COVID is going to do,” Strobel said. “I anticipate we’re going to see med-mal cases over the next few years with very different sets of facts that are intertwined with the COVID situation.”

Win or lose, every case has Strobel wondering, “What could I have done differently to make this outcome slightly better?”

“I always take a second look at the end of the case,” he said. “Maybe that’s not the best answer, but I am kind of a perfectionist and self-critical.”



“Matt is a true leader in not only his advocacy, but his mentorship of young attorneys.”

Matthew Taylor

TAYLOR LAW OFFICES
PARTNER

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

Matthew Taylor has devoted his whole life to others. Even from a young age, he found fulfillment in serving other people. His compassion and willingness to support people other than himself, combined with his dynamic personality, has made law the perfect fit for him. Taylor is a continual learner who is not afraid to step out on a limb — especially when it comes to finding effective solutions for his clients. In addition, his business-mind and creativity have been a valuable part of what has made him successful in the field of law for the last nine years.

Taylor earned an undergraduate business degree in Oregon, then decided to head to New

York for law school. He chose this state because of its substantial business regulations and he believed that this could give him a diverse and well-rounded scope to his education. After graduation, he passed the Idaho State Bar and began his own practice, Taylor Law Offices. Today, the Boise-based firm, with a branch in Twin Falls, specializes in business law and litigation. Through his leadership, business acumen and ability to advocate for his clients, the company has become a beacon in the Treasure Valley area.

In his nomination letter for Taylor, attorney Anthony Shallat wrote, “Matt is a true leader in not only his advocacy, but his mentorship of young attorneys.” This willingness to help

other rising attorneys to do their best and make their mark is at the heart of Taylor’s commitment to the whole community. Outside of the office, Taylor is dedicated to attending and donating to donation events or galas, and he also holds his own events at his firm to help raise proceeds for local area nonprofits. He was also recently named as Man of the Year for the Boise Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and he has served as a board member for Hyde Park Places for over eight years.

After learning of his Leaders in Law nomination, Taylor said, “Making business law accessible to Idahoans, of all means, has been a passion of mine for many years and I’m humbled that my simple passion is being recognized.”



“The vast majority of my clients are good people who, like all of us, are human and have made mistakes.”

William Young

WILLIAM YOUNG & ASSOCIATES
PARTNER

By Brooke Strickland
Special to the Idaho Business Review

William Young is an Idaho native who prides himself on working one-on-one with each client. He is young and full of passion for the field of law, and as a criminal defense attorney at his own firm, William Young and Associates, he fights hard for each case.

Young grew up in Idaho and, after getting an undergraduate degree in Texas, he moved back to Boise to finish law school. Having been a part of Idaho his whole life, he understands that, while the scenery is beautiful, at the heart of the state is the people. He is committed to building his practice here for many years to

come, fighting for the people here, protecting and advocating for those that need it most.

Young has practiced in both state and federal courts, handling nearly every type of case. Whether it is a simple infraction to a complex felony case, he has demonstrated his skill both in the courtroom and in client meetings when he is getting to know the details. Small case or large, Young's reputation for giving his all speaks for itself. He is deeply invested in each case that he works on. For this reason, Young limits how many cases he is working on at a time. This allows him to give each person the attention that they deserve and so he can work to get the solution and

results that clients need.

Young said, “Most days, I greatly enjoy my job. The vast majority of my clients are good people who, like all of us, are human and have made mistakes. They trust me to be there, by their side, advocating on their behalf, during a time when they are most in need. I take that trust seriously and, in turn, most are appreciative of the services I provide. I see every case as an opportunity to make a positive impact on someone's life. Through that lens, what I do is very rewarding. I am proud of everything my firm has accomplished in 2020. Still, we are not done yet. We will keep grinding, day in and day out, on our client's behalf.”

SMITH + MALEK ATTORNEYS



Congratulations, Hannah Andazola!

Health care leaders turn to Hannah and
Smith + Malek for their legal needs.

(208) 473-7009 | www.smithmalek.com

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH...



And they partner with a trusted resource that's kept them
connected to their community year after year.

A partner who is able to pivot with new ways to help its customers and readers, while maintaining an established and reliable reputation for delivering business news to business people. While it is true you can't reach your customers as you have in the past, we offer you solutions to reach them wherever they may be. After all, we're in this together and, most importantly, we are committed to your success.

As such, we have expanded our services to better meet your needs. Our teams are eager to listen and help with your individual business concerns. Our products include:

- Print and Website with all-eyes-on content
- Podcasts and Webinars
- Thriving Social Media Channels
- e-newsletters and e-blasts to an engaged e-audience
- SEO/SEM Management

A wise old adage says, "When times are good, you should advertise. When times are bad you **MUST** advertise." Let us help you maintain your share of voice during these times. But more importantly, let us help you grow your share of market.

Contact Us Today!

**IDAHO
BUSINESS REVIEW**
Idahobusinessreview.com

PUBLISHER
Cindy Suffa 208.639.3517
csuffa@idahobusinessreview.com

THE HAWLEY TROXELL WAY

MOVERS AND SHAKERS

They are movers and shakers —
and that is why they work at
Hawley Troxell. Congratulations
to our four 2020 Leaders in Law,
Brad Miller, Tom Mortell, Jetta
Mathews, and Austin Strobel. They are continuing a tradition of over 50 years of
dedication and outstanding service to our community — *The Hawley Troxell Way*.

**HAWLEY
TROXELL**
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS



Brad Miller



Tom Mortell



Jetta Mathews



Austin Strobel

BOISE / COEUR D'ALENE / IDAHO FALLS / POCA TELLO / RENO
Call 208.344.6000 or visit HawleyTroxell.com

GO PREMIUM

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

CALL 877-615-9536 OR VISIT

SERVICE@BRIDGETOWERMEDIA.COM

Already a Print & Digital Subscriber? Call to upgrade - NOW!

As a premium subscriber, gain total database access with unlimited downloads.

<http://bit.ly/IBR-PREMIUM>



PRINT & DIGITAL + DATA
SUBSCRIPTION

IDAHO BUSINESS REVIEW

www.idahobusinessreview.com

- Total access to Idaho Business Review List Database*
- Unlimited downloads
- PDFs and spreadsheets
- Book of Lists PLUS
- Unpublished data
- Custom data searches



**Please note: the Data portion of the premium subscription is non-refundable.*



boise | centre

PLAN

EXHIBIT

ATTEND



Boise's Best. At its Centre.

Centrally located in the heart of vibrant downtown Boise, the newly expanded Boise Centre has a variety of customizable meeting spaces, modern amenities, exceptional culinary services and a friendly and dedicated staff ready to make your next event an unforgettable experience. Explore Idaho's premier convention center for yourself.

- Centralized, downtown location
- Only seven minutes from Boise airport
- Over 18 direct flights to and from Boise
- Closely surrounded by more than 100 restaurants
- Over 1,300 hotel rooms within walking distance
- Close to outdoor recreation, including the The Boise Greenbelt

LEARN MORE: boisecentre.com





University of Idaho
College of Law

uidaho.edu/law

CONGRATULATIONS

to the 2020 University of Idaho College of Law
Leaders in Law Honorees

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Hon. Bart M. Davis, United States Attorney
for the District of Idaho, '81

PARTNERS

Clinton Casey, Casey Legal Group,
Owner, B.S. '87

Brad Miller, Hawley Troxell,
Partner/Attorney, '83, '86

SOLE PRACTITIONER

Taylor Mossman-Fletcher, Mossman Law Office,
Owner/Attorney, '06

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL

Sherman F. Furey III, Idaho Attorney General,
Chief Deputy Attorney General, '78, '81

Kent Nelson, University of Idaho,
General Counsel, '80, '84

Steven Price, Ada County Highway District,
General Counsel, '94

UP-AND-COMING

Hannah Andazola, Smith + Malek,
Associate, '18

Jetta Mathews, Hawley Troxell,
Attorney, '10

William Young, William Young & Associates,
Partner, '13

