



January 28, 2005

Dear Community Member,

We invite you to apply to attend the Spring 2005 Second District Citizens' Law Academy. The Citizens' Law Academy ("CLA") is a free, 10-week public information program of the Idaho State Bar, supported by the Second District Bar Association, the U.S. Federal Courts, and other generous sponsors. CLA is designed to educate the public:

- to understand the laws affecting their daily lives and their rights under the law;
- to understand what lawyers do, how they serve the public, and how problems within the legal profession and judiciary are resolved;
- to understand how the judicial system works; and
- to learn about lawyers' public service and activities that help ensure equal access under the law.

Statewide, practicing attorneys, judges, law enforcement officers, and Idaho State Bar/Idaho Law Foundation staff serve as faculty and discussion leaders for the weekly evening class sessions. All faculty, committee, and Bar staff time is donated.

Local practicing attorneys in the Second District, which includes Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, and Nez Perce Counties, have worked to select classes that will be interesting and informative for local community members. The classes will generally be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m., once per week, from March 9 through May 19. Class locations will be divided between Moscow and Lewiston, and we ask applicants to commit to making every reasonable effort to attend each class session.

The classes are designed to be lively, interesting, and interactive. The titles and descriptions of the classes below should suggest the informal and pleasant atmosphere we seek to foster. The classes are designed to benefit people from all walks of life and all education levels.

Foundation of Our Legal System. This is Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Stephen Trott's signature presentation, in which he will discuss the historical basis of our legal system, the Constitution, and the importance of the rule of law. He will walk the class through real-life examples of how our Constitution and legal system have been tested and proven.

Our Modern Court System. This class provides an overview of our modern court system, focusing on trial courts. The class will learn about the roles of people working in our court system, from clerks to judges.

Cops & Bad Guys: Truth v. Fiction in Criminal Cases. This class will follow a fictitious criminal case from investigation through arrest, prosecution, conviction, and sentencing, with a panel including a prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, and law enforcement officer.

Arguing for a Second Opinion: the Appeal Process. Former Idaho Court of Appeals Judge Donald L. Burnett will guide the class through the process of appealing a trial court decision—the paperwork involved, appellate court standards and limitations, the hearing process, and drafting opinions.

How Lawyers are Governed/Judging the Judges. How are lawyers admitted to the Bar? How is the conduct of lawyers and judges regulated? The class will learn about the Rules of Professional Responsibility and the disciplinary process for both lawyers and judges.

Is it Really Like the Movies? The class will watch clips from popular movies and discuss what really happens in and out of courtrooms. A judge with experience in criminal, civil, and family law will guide the discussion.

Peer Pressure: A Look at the Jury System. This class will address the tradition of the jury system and its impact on the American legal system. Along the way, this class will address how juries are chosen, juror misconduct, and other aspects of the modern jury system.

That Million Dollar Verdict and Other Fantasies. What really goes on behind the scenes in a personal injury action? The class will learn how a personal injury case is evaluated and successfully prosecuted and defended, and the importance of separating reality from unrealistic expectations.

Local Government, Boards, and Districts. This is a new class that will cover the laws of local government, election of local officials, and how to become active in local government.

Students' Choice. Students will choose the topic of this class from a selection of past class topics and will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

If you are interested in attending, please promptly complete the enclosed application form, which will also become available in the “Education” section of the Idaho State Bar’s web site: www.state.id.us/isb/gen/cla.htm. Class space is limited to 25-30 students, so please observe the deadlines set out in the application and apply early. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Citizen’s Law Academy Second District Committee