

**IDAHO PRESS CLUB
ATTORNEYS FOR CIVIC EDUCATION (ACE)
IDAHO SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEALS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, DISTRICT OF IDAHO
UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF LAW**

INSTITUTE FOR JOURNALISTS (2026)

***The Rule of Law, the Role of the Press, and the Enduring Importance of an
Independent and Impartial Judiciary in Hyper-Partisan Times***

Idaho Supreme Court
451 W State St., Boise, Idaho
Lincoln Conference Room (Basement)

Saturday, May 2, 2026

PROGRAM AGENDA

8:15 – 8:30 a.m. Arrival and check-in by Institute participants; coffee and water provided; please find a table before the program begins.

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Welcome Remarks and Introductions

- Hon. Amanda K. Brailsford, Chief United States District Judge, on behalf of the federal judiciary
- Hon. G. Richard Bevan, Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court, on behalf of the state judiciary
- Aliza Cover, Professor and Interim Dean, on behalf of the University of Idaho College of Law
- Hon. Jessica M. Lorello, Idaho Court of Appeals, on behalf of the Idaho Attorneys for Civic Education (ACE)
- Melissa Davlin, producer for Idaho Public Television and host of “Idaho Reports”, on behalf of the Idaho Press Club
- *Followed by a brief self-introduction by journalists*

**9:00 – 10:05 a.m. Topic One: Ethical and Practical Considerations When Preparing
Stories, Perspectives from the Court and Journalists**

Brief quiz on legal terms to start (5 minutes), administered by Katie Ball

Presenters:

- Rebecca Boone, Supervisory Correspondent, Associated Press of Idaho
- Melissa Davlin, producer for Idaho Public Television and host of “Idaho Reports”, on behalf of the Idaho Press Club

- Hon. Amanda K. Brailsford, Chief United States District Judge, United States Court for the District of Idaho

10:05 – 10:50 a.m. Topic Two: Understanding Federal and State Court Structures

Presenters:

- Hon. Jessica M. Lorello, Idaho Court of Appeals
- Stephen Kenyon, Clerk of the United States Courts for the District of Idaho

10:50 - 11:35 a.m. Idaho Supreme Court & Court of Appeals Tour and Talk

Presenters:

- Hon. Gregory W. Moeller, Justice, Idaho Supreme Court
- Hon. Jessica M. Lorello, Idaho Court of Appeals

11:35 a.m. Pick up lunch outside of basement conference room

Note: We will have boxed lunches ordered ahead for each attendee.

**11:45 – 12:45 p.m. Topic Three: Lunch CLE Presentation
Building bridges between the bar and the press ---
Principles for ethical and effective communication**

Having a case hit the headlines can be stressful. This CLE equips attorneys with the essential skills to build ethical and trusted relationships with reporters. Participants will learn the rules of engagement for interviews; ethical guidelines for safeguarding legal responsibilities; and how strong reporter-source communication can help ensure accurate, fair and nuanced news coverage.

Presenters:

- Howard Belodoff, attorney
- Rebecca Boone, Supervisory Correspondent, Associated Press of Idaho
- Audrey Dutton, Reporter, ProPublica
- Hon. David Lorello, Ada County Magistrate Judge

12:45 p.m. Break and continued conversations before next session

1:00 – 3:20 p.m. Topic Four: Reporting a Judicial Decision with Rule of Law Content

1:00 p.m. *Part A: The Rule of Law and the Role of the Judiciary in Hyper-Partisan Times*

- Donald Burnett, Professor Emeritus and former Dean, University of Idaho College of Law

1:30 p.m. *Part B: America's Ongoing Civics Lesson: How Judges Make Law-Based Decisions and How the Media Cover Them*

- Perspectives from the bench: Explaining how judges make decisions and interpret the law, and the frameworks that guide and direct their options.
- Perspectives from journalists: Challenges to rule-of-law-based reporting, including time pressures, court access issues, issues in helping the public understand law-based decisions – and how journalists have overcome those.

Presenters:

- Hon. Gregory W. Moeller, Justice, Idaho Supreme Court
- Hon. Nancy Baskin, District Judge, Fourth Judicial District Court
- Mortan Romero, KTVB anchor and investigative reporter

2:20 p.m. *Part C: Writing Exercise: You be the Judge*

Participants are presented with a hypothetical case and are asked to be the trial judge deciding on a motion to suppress. Using handouts with sample arguments, legal statutes, and relying on the information they have gained throughout the day about the work of judges, they must sketch out how they would reach their decision on the motion and what that decision would be. Handouts and case information will be shared with participants ahead of the institute.

Presenters:

- Audrey Dutton, Reporter, ProPublica
- Betsy Z. Russell, secretary, Idaho Press Club
- Nate Poppino, Communications Manager, Idaho Supreme Court
- Donald Burnett, Professor Emeritus and former Dean, University of Idaho College of Law

3:20 – 3:40 p.m. Open dialogue with journalists, presenters, and lawyers and time for follow-up questions.

3:40 – 3:50 p.m. Conclusion, Completion of Feedback Surveys, and Distribution of Attendance Certificates.

- Katie Ball, University of Idaho College of Law