

PRESS RELEASE

United States District and Bankruptcy Court, District of Idaho
James A. McClure Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse . 550 West Fort Street • Boise, Idaho

For Immediate Release

Date: November 4, 2011
Contact: Elizabeth A. Smith, Clerk of Court
Phone: (208) 334-9373
Subject: Janis Dotson
Recipient of Idaho State Bar's Distinguished
Pro Bono Award



Janis T. Dotson of the United States District Court for the District of Idaho is receiving the distinguished Pro Bono Service Award from the Idaho State Bar for her outstanding pro bono service to the bar and her community. She will receive the award on November 15, 2011 at noon at the Boise Center on the Grove.

Ms. Dotson was nominated by Chief United States Magistrate Judge Candy Wagahoff Dale for the pro bono legal services she provided in organizing and establishing the Kuna Club as part of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ada County. She has donated a tireless number of hours by drafting articles of incorporation for the organization's non-profit status, attending organizing meetings, preparing agendas, minutes, and conducting follow-up meetings. She has drafted legal documents and organized public meetings to ensure compliance with city, county and state statutory requirements pertinent to the property upon which the Kuna facility will operate.

Judge Dale said, "I also add a comment about her exemplary professional career, which has been measured by her significant contributions to the federal court, and the advancement of the rule of law and the improvement of society as a whole." In addition to her pro bono service, Ms. Dotson has judged high school moot court and mock congressional hearing competitions, volunteered in annual Law Day activities, and has participated in the Bar's evening Idaho Volunteer Lawyer Program (IVLP) family law clinics.

Ms. Dotson recently spoke about her sense of duty to society:

"Giving time and money to good causes is one of the best ways for me to refine my character. When I feel like grumbling about a project that seems to be going on forever, I try to remember C.S. Lewis's comment that it isn't really charity if it isn't a personal sacrifice.

I love my federal court position working with pro se prisoner civil rights and habeas corpus cases because I help ensure that the constitutional rights of the poor are protected. I do a fair amount of lobbying members of the Bar to volunteer for our federal court pro bono panel, and wouldn't think it fair to ask someone to do something that I am not willing to do myself."