

THE STATE OF IDAHO  
SUPREME COURT



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**New Release**

**For Immediate Release  
July 18, 2011**

**Justice Roger S. Burdick to Serve as Chief Justice of Idaho Supreme Court**

(Boise, ID) - Justice Roger S. Burdick has been unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve as Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court. Justice Burdick begins his four year term as Chief Justice on August 1, 2011. He succeeds Justice Daniel T. Eismann, who will continue to serve on the state's highest court. The new Chief Justice will be formally sworn in at a ceremony in August.

"It is a great honor to serve as Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court and I thank my colleagues for their unanimous vote of confidence," Justice Burdick said. "I know that any success I have had as a judge has been as a direct result of the talented, capable people I have been privileged to work with over a long period of time. I include in that number elected and appointed clerks and court personnel, lawyers who have always been willing to work with me to attempt to solve problems for people and, of course, the law clerks over the years that have been critical to the work judges are able to perform."

Justice Burdick said Justice Eismann, who has advocated a four-year rotation in the Chief Justice position, has done an outstanding job as Chief Justice and that Justice Burdick plans to continue his initiatives to expand drug, mental health and other problem solving courts in Idaho and to pursue advances in technology that help modernize court operations.

The new Chief Justice also pledged that he will continue to emphasize the importance of timely justice for all Idahoans, recruiting and retaining highly competent judges, and working with Governor Otter, the Idaho legislature, and county officials to ensure that there are an adequate number of judges and appropriate facilities to carry out the Constitutional duties of the Judicial Branch. Justice Burdick said during his tenure he plans to visit all 44 Idaho counties to hear directly about court issues from the public, elected officials, and court personnel.

Justice Burdick has served for 30 years in various capacities within the Idaho Judiciary, including service as a Magistrate Judge in Jerome County, a District Judge in Twin Falls County, the Administrative Judge for the Fifth Judicial District and the judge overseeing the Snake River Basin Adjudication. In August 2003, he was appointed to the Idaho Supreme Court by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne and was retained by popular vote in 2004 and 2010. In 2007, he became Vice Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court.

Justice Burdick received his undergraduate degree in Finance from the University of Colorado in 1970 and graduated from the University of Idaho School of Law in 1974.

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