Ethics and the Idaho Legislature

Wednesday, January 9th, 2013

1:15 pm to 5:00 pm Capitol Auditorium

 1:15 pm
 Welcome and Opening Remarks: Senate Pro Tem Brent Hill and Speaker Scott Bedke

1:30 – 2:30 pm Strengthening a Culture of Ethics in Government Scott Raecker, Executive Director of Character Counts in Iowa (CCII). CCII is a grant funded institute at Drake University and a statewide partner in the prestigious Josephson Institute of Ethics. Mr. Raecker served 14 years in the Iowa House of Representatives, serving as Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Chair of the House Ethics Committee, and Chair of the Midwest Council of Government's Legislative Leadership Institute. Mr. Raecker is a graduate of Grinnell College receiving a degree in Political Science and Religious Studies, and is a certified corporate ethics trainer through the Josephson Institute of Ethics.

2:30 – 3:15 p.m. Conflicts of Interest, the Public Trust and the Law

Brian Kane, Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General This session will focus on the inherent conflicts of interest that exist in a citizen legislature, and review the laws and rules that govern conflict of interest situations, House Rule 38 and Senate Rule 39, and discuss when it is appropriate to declare a conflict of interest. This session will also review the Title 18 statutes and clarify what constitutes using a public position for personal gain, discuss limitations on gifts to legislators, discuss real case scenarios legislators may find themselves in, including the proper role of legislators in large state contract award processes.

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. Break

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Money and Campaigns

Ben Ysursa, Idaho Secretary of State

Brian Kane, Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General What is an appropriate use of campaign funds? What is the definition of "ordinary and necessary" expenses? When should you avoid soliciting campaign contributions? What guidelines and best practices should I be aware of when working with lobbyists?

4:00 – 4:30 p.m. Communications

Brian Kane, Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General

When is it appropriate to use official letterhead and when should it be personal or campaign letterhead? What is the appropriate use of the State Seal? What are guidelines for using your state e-mail? What is the distinction between official business, personal business and campaign business? What is a public record, and is it still a public record if it is communicated on a personally owned device?

4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Break into House and Senate Groups for Q and A session