

Bruce Reed to keynote annual Human Rights banquet

The Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations Board

announced today that Bruce Reed, Rhodes Scholar and former special assistant for domestic affairs to President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama, will be this year's keynote speaker at the 17th annual human rights banquet. His most recent public policy position was serving as Chief of Staff to Vice-President Joe Biden. He currently is serving as executive director to one of the leading non-profit educational foundations in America.

"We have been fortunate to feature such prominent public officials as former Idaho Governor Phil Batt, Senator Mike Crapo, Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood and now Reed as our banquet keynote speakers," said KCTFHR president Christie Wood.

Coeur d'Alene Mayor Steve Widmyer will give the welcome.

The banquet highlights will also include the presentation of the 2013 "KCTFHR Civil Rights Award" to former Coeur d'Alene Mayor Sandi Bloem, former city councilmen Mike Kennedy and Deanne Goodlander and current councilmen Dan Goodkin, Ron Edinger and Woody McEverts for their support and adoption in June 2013 of the city ordinance banning discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

Freeman Duncan, a former Republican Idaho State Representative and current

board member of the Idaho Hall of Fame will preside over the induction of Gregory

C. Carr, Mary Lou and Scott Reed and the Human Rights Education Institute as new

members of the prestigious Idaho Hall of Fame. The Reeds, Carr and HREI have

worked tirelessly in advancing human rights. Carr, a philanthropist, has contributed millions of dollars to promote human rights, to combat poverty and to provide financial assistance in the fight against AIDS in the third world. In 2001, Carr gave one million dollars to HREI for their human rights educational programs. The same year he purchased the Aryan Nations Compound from the winning plaintiffs' in the "Keenans v Aryan Nations" civil case, turned it into a Peace Park and deeded it to the North Idaho College Foundation.

Individual tickets are \$40 or tables can be purchased for \$500 or \$1,000. All profits go to the Human Rights Education Institute for their work including the awarding of four annual NIC minority student scholarships. The deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, April 25. For further information, call (208) 765-3932 or 292-2359.

The human rights banquet is scheduled for Monday, April 28 at the Best Western Coeur d'Alene Inn, 506 W Appleway with the reception starting at 5 PM and dinner at 6 PM.