

Clive Strong Idaho Supreme Court



Clive Strong is a third-generation Idahoan who has lived, learned and worked all across the Gem State. His background in agriculture, forestry and water rights set him up for a career of protecting Idaho's sovereignty over its natural resources as Deputy Attorney General. His breadth of experience in Constitutional Law and service to Idahoans make him the ideal candidate for Idaho Supreme Court.

A Third-Generation Idahoan

Clive Strong was born and raised in the Magic Valley. The son of Alvin and Juanita Strong, he is the second of eight children. He attended Wendell public schools where he was active in National Honor Society, football and track. No stranger to hard work, Clive began working at age 8, first for local farmers and then, in high school, at a wood treatment company in Tuttle. From these experiences, Clive gained an early understanding of the importance of agriculture and forestry to Idaho's economy. His interest in forestry led him to the University of Idaho where he earned a degree in Forest Business Management. More importantly, he met his wife, Martha, on a blind date. They have been married for 41 years. To pay for college, Clive worked for the Forest Service doing timber stand surveys and fighting fires. After graduating college in 1974, Clive worked for Diamond International in Coeur d'Alene in lumber sales.

An Impressive Legal Career

Clive earned his law degree from the University of Idaho in 1978 and a Masters of Law degree from the University of Michigan in 1983 with an emphasis in natural resource law. Clive joined the Idaho Attorney General's Office in 1983. One year later, Clive was promoted to Chief of the Natural Resources Division, a position he continues to hold. He has argued two cases before the United States Supreme Court and numerous cases before the Idaho Supreme Court.

Clive is a nationally recognized expert in natural resource and water matters, recently being recognized as the 2014 Environment, Energy, and Resources Government Attorney of the Year by the American Bar Association. He also received the Idaho Bar Association's Professionalism Award, the Western Attorneys General's Public Service Award, and the National Association of Attorneys General's Marvin Award for extraordinary service.

A Defender of Idaho's Rights

On his third day on the job in the Attorney General's Office, Clive was assigned to work on the Swan Falls water rights case, which led to the historic 1984 Swan Falls Agreement. This Agreement in large measure laid the foundation for Clive's thirty-three-year career defending Idaho's natural resources. Clive oversees all natural resource and environmental matters for the State of Idaho. He was the State's lead attorney in the Snake River Basin Adjudication from its inception in 1987 to its completion in 2014. The adjudication decreed more than 158,000 water rights. Other states view Idaho's adjudication as a model. Additionally, Clive has represented Idaho in litigation over Snake River salmon and steelhead, and management of state endowment lands.

A Family Man

Clive and Martha, who reside in Boise, are the proud parents of three sons – James, Jason and Jeffrey. When his son was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis, Clive joined the Idaho Chapter of the National Arthritis Foundation, serving two terms as its President. Clive spent many hours on the court and the pitch as a coach and booster for his sons' basketball and soccer teams – serving two terms as President of the Timberline High School Booster Club. He also was the first treasurer of the White Pine Elementary PTA.