

THE STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT



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Chief Justice Says Candidate Bradbury's Ads are Incorrect and a Distortion

Idaho Chief Justice Daniel T. Eismann said today that two recent newspaper ads, paid for by the campaign of Judge John Bradbury, contain incorrect information and misrepresent the actions of the Idaho judicial system. Chief Justice Eismann released the following statement in an effort to correct the record and respond directly to Judge Bradbury's misrepresentations about the Idaho Courts.

"In one ad, published in the *Idaho Statesman* on May 20, 2010, Bradbury claims that the Idaho Supreme Court 'squandered \$78,425 of a STOP Violence Against Women grant' by only spending '4 ½ hours on domestic violence' at a judicial conference.

"The ad is inaccurate and a gross misrepresentation of actions of the judicial branch. Judge Bradbury did not even attend the conference about which he complains. The granting agencies approved the training provided.

"Furthermore, the Idaho judicial system has been recognized nationally for its leadership in addressing domestic violence in a comprehensive and effective manner. To suggest that the Idaho Courts are 'squandering' grants is absolutely inaccurate.

"A second ad, appearing on May 16, 2010 in the *Statesman*, asked: 'Does the Idaho Judiciary discriminate?' and goes on to say that 'of the twenty-two district and appellate judges appointed in the last three years only one was a woman.'

"Judge Bradbury knows the Idaho judiciary does not appoint district and appellate judges. The Idaho Constitution gives that power to the Governor, subject to procedures provided by the Legislature. And indeed, Judge Bradbury acknowledges the judiciary does not appoint judges when he complains that when judges die, resign, or retire, the Governor appoints a replacement to serve until the next election.

"Furthermore, in 2008, the Supreme Court created a Judicial Recruitment Committee, co-chaired by Chief Judge Karen Lansing and Judge Sergio Gutierrez of the Idaho Court of Appeals. The Committee is seeking ways to increase the numbers of applicants for judicial positions, including women and minorities. To suggest that the failure to have more women judges is the fault of the judicial branch is another gross misrepresentation of the facts.

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“In truth, as Judge Bradbury should know, the Idaho Courts and the state bar have taken numerous steps in the recent past to encourage more candidates, including women, for judicial positions. The Court is firmly on record in this regard and to suggest that the Idaho Judiciary discriminates against women is to misrepresent and distort the record.

“Judge Bradbury has every right to seek election to the Idaho Supreme Court; however he has no right to distort the truth and make unfounded claims against the courts of Idaho.”

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