

9-2017

Professionalism and Ethics Section Takes Its Turn

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Jodi Nafzger, Professionalism & Ethics Section Takes Its Turn, *Advocate*, Sept. 2017, at 22,

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Citation:

Jodi Nafzger, Professionalism & Ethics Section Takes
Its Turn, 60 Advocate 22 (2017)

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Mon Mar 19 11:44:52 2018

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Professionalism & Ethics Section Takes its Turn

Jodi Nafzger

Greetings from the Professionalism & Ethics Section. We are pleased to sponsor this issue of *The Advocate*. The Professionalism & Ethics Section strives to preserve and enhance ethics, civility, and professionalism in the practice of law and to raise the public's perception of our profession.

The Section sponsors the 1L Ethics Orientation at the University of Idaho College of Law and Concordia University School of Law each August in an effort to emphasize the social and professional responsibilities for incoming members of our profession. We also host an annual CLE program in November, an ethics CLE at the annual meeting, and quarterly "Ethical Happy Hours," a gameshow-format CLE and social hour. We also award the Richard C. Fields Civility Award each year to a judge or lawyer who demonstrates a commitment to civility in the practice of law.

In this month's issue of *The Advocate*, our Section members have contributed articles on topics related to ethics and professionalism in the practice of law. Elizabeth Schierman, of TraskBritt, PC, writes about *Rule 1.1 Competence* as it relates to the practice of Intellectual Property Law. Her article also introduces an

exciting new Idaho Patent Pro Bono Program.

Jeremiah Hudson and Angie Perkins, of Fisher Rainey Hudson, co-authored an article about ethics in class action lawsuits. Yvonne Dunbar, of Anderson, Julian & Hull, LLP, provides an overview of the Section's study of new *ABA Model Rule 8.4(g)* related to discrimination and harassment within the Bar.

One of this Section's duties includes reviewing new model rules and recommending whether to adopt those rules in Idaho. A subcommittee of our Section studied *Model Rule 8.4(g)* over the course of six months and proposed a draft rule to our membership in June.

Section meetings are currently held the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. in Boise at The Law Center (teleconference access from throughout the state). We also

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maintain a number of resources on our Section's web page related to the Idaho and ABA Rules of Professional Conduct and Bar Counsel's Office.

Membership in this Section provides Idaho attorneys an opportunity to work closely with colleagues who share a vision for a profession that embodies personal courtesy and professional and ethical integrity. We are fortunate to practice law in a state that values this vision, and we invite you to attend our CLEs and join our membership.

Jodi Nafzger is the Chair of the Idaho State Bar's Professionalism and Ethics Section. She is an Associate Professor and Director of Experiential Learning at Concordia University School of Law in Boise, Idaho.



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