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Alyson Foster

FOUNDING MEMBER
DEMPSEY FOSTER PLLC

By Taylor Rico-Pekerol

Alyson Foster, founding member of the Dempsey Foster firm, works to uphold the attorneys’ practice by using the values of excellence, courage and partnership and providing access and opportunities to a diverse range of clients. She helps these clients by offering services in contract negotiation, business formation and governance, employment, arbitration, mediation and federal and state court litigation. She often does pro bono cases for clients of all backgrounds, helping victims of domestic violence and underserved members of the community.

“Alyson should be honored because of her commitment to the law and community,” said colleague and fellow co-founder of Dempsey Foster, Jennifer Schrack Dempsey.

Foster has co-authored several amicus curiae briefs for the U.S. Supreme Court on constitutional law issues. She is president of the Idaho chapter of the Federal Bar Association, chair-elect of the Idaho State Bar Litigation Section and the policy council chair of the Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Her previous work before landing at Dempsey Foster included spending six years at Andersen Schwartzman Woodard Dempsey PLLC, where she served as “of counsel” and then a partner. During her time there, she represented businesses, organizations and individuals in commercial litigation in federal and state courts. Prior to that, she worked for 11 years at law firms in Washington, D.C., (Gilbert LLP and Bredhoff & Kaiser) and served as a law clerk to Judge Sidney R. Thomas of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Consistently volunteering her time for cases that range from nonprofit work to litigation for those who cannot afford an attorney, Foster is committed to the law and her community. “Idaho has a strong service and nonprofit community that I love working with to help and protect Idahoans in need,” she said. Her community involvement has been extensive and includes serving as a founding board member of the nonprofit organizations City of Good, Idaho Business for the Outdoors and the Treefort Community Fund.

Foster attended University of California, Berkeley, where she received Bachelor of Arts degrees in both mathematics and German. She then went on to graduate from the University of Michigan Law School cum laude in 2000. In law school, she was involved in the Michigan Law Review as the executive articles editor and in the Women Law Students’ Association as co-president.

Among Foster’s many qualifications, her work with nonprofit organizations has helped her firm obtain 501(c)(3) approval from the IRS and develop bylaws and conflict of interest policies for Idaho nonprofits. She assists them by advising the organizations on startup and governance issues to help them accomplish their nonprofit mission.

“Alyson’s strength lies in her ability to analyze the situation, think outside the box and then come up with a solution that serves not only the legal interests of a client but the business and cultural purposes as well,” Schrack Dempsey said.

In her spare time, Foster enjoys exploring Idaho with her park ranger husband and their two dogs.