

## Newal Squyres — Great Expectations Turned into Hard Work

Dan Black

**N**ewal Squyres knows his job. “You take care of your client. You do what’s right,” he said. “And what’s right is the law. Your responsibility is to be a problem solver.”

“Sometimes the only way to solve a problem is to actually go to trial, which is always the best part of practicing law for a trial lawyer. But going to trial is not necessarily in the best interest of solving a client’s problem,” he said.

Interviewed at Holland & Hart’s new offices on the 17th Floor of Eighth & Main, Newal speaks humbly about his accomplishments, influences, work schedule, his community involvement, and his time with the Department of Justice implementing the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act (FISA).

In his home state of Texas, Newal’s family had high expectations for all the children. Newal’s father was a small town family practitioner and leader in the medical community, selected as the Texas Family Practice Physician of the Year in 1983, and who helped establish the Family Practice Department at the Texas Tech Medical School. Newal said his family might have been slightly disappointed he didn’t go into medicine. But he was not very good with math and science and law was his first choice.



Newal Squyres,  
Boise

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“I did as well as you could in law school,” Newal said, having graduated at the top of his class and served as editor of the Law Review. “I was shocked because all I wanted to do was not flunk out,” he said. “I just worked really hard.”

His parents led by example, “living hard-working, tolerant and non-judgmental lives,” Newal said. And the value system they passed on was simply to “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

After law school, Newal clerked for Judge Joe Ingraham on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which handled major racial discrimination cases in the South. In 1974, after the clerkship, Newal, his wife Linda, and four-month-old son, Isaac, moved to Boise “to be a real lawyer,” Newal said. They wanted to live where they could ski, and in those days Texans weren’t all that welcome in Colorado, much like Californians to Idaho.

His time in Boise was interrupted by a stint in Washington, D.C., at the Department of Justice. One of his early mentors was Fifth Cir-

cuit Judge Griffin B. Bell, who was appointed U.S. Attorney General by President Jimmy Carter. From 1977 to late ’79, Newal worked for Judge Bell in the Office of Legal Counsel and was among a group of six to eight lawyers from across the Department that met every morning for breakfast with the Attorney General.

Newal was part of a small team dealing almost exclusively with national security and counterintelligence matters. “As Judge Bell put it, our job was to bring the intelligence community under the rule of law.” We helped implement the recommendations of the “Church Committee” (the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence chaired by U.S. Senator Frank Church), including the Foreign Intelligence Security Court, (also known as FISA), which was a main focus of his responsibilities.

“Judge Bell had a great sense of humor, did not take himself too seriously, worked very hard, and loved the practice of law and being a lawyer. He taught us and made

the tough daily decisions by being a problem solver with the rule of law as the bedrock principle from which to act.” Newal says not only were these years a great experience, but they provided a wonderful foundation to try and be a good lawyer and member of society. “We always planned to come back to Idaho and reality.”

So Newal and his family returned to Idaho, and he resumed a general litigation practice. He also put down roots, getting involved with the Idaho State Bar as a speaker, teacher, mentor, and lecturer for the Citizens’ Law Academy, and as a founding member of the Idaho Pro Bono Commission. Newal was an Idaho State Bar Commissioner in 2007-10. He has been a Trainer in the Trial Advocacy Clinic at the U of I Law School for many years. He also served on the executive committee of the Idaho Partners Against Domestic Violence. Aside from the law, Newal delved into the world of soccer and coached for the Boise Nationals Soccer Club for 20 years.

Newal has represented individuals and businesses large and small. He has been a plaintiff’s lawyer (doing contingent fee work for individuals who have been harmed or injured) and defense counsel, defending companies against all sorts of allegations of wrongful conduct. “I take all types of cases. That means I get to learn about new areas of the law, but also learn about the client’s or opponent’s business. Sometimes you have to learn a whole new industry. You want to view things with an open mind, to work with judgment without being judgmental. You try to respect other people, particularly the lawyers on the other side.”

Of all the work, he said, some of the most meaningful and satisfying

## Fast Facts - Newal Squyres

### Firm

- Partner, Holland and Hart LLP, Boise office

### Practice areas:

- Commercial Litigation/Business Torts
- Labor and Employment
- Appellate
- Products Liability
- False Claims Act

### Awards & Honors

- Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers
- ACLU of Idaho Liberty Award (1994)
- Plaque of Appreciation, Intelligence Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, October 1979.

### Memberships/Affiliations

- Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioners (2007-2010), President (2009)
- Faculty, University of Idaho School of Law, Trial Advocacy Clinic
- Idaho Bar Foundation, Citizens’ Law Academy
- Idaho Pro Bono Commission Founder, Executive Committee (2008-2014)
- Member, Executive Committee, Idaho Partners Against Domestic Violence (2008-2014)
- Board Member, John William Jackson Fund (2012-present)
- Board Member, Boise Nationals Soccer Club (2006-2008), and Coach (1986-2008)

### Education:

- Texas Tech University School of Law, with High Honors (J.D. 1972)
  - Order of the Coif, Editor-in-Chief, Law Review
- Texas Tech University (B.A. 1968)

cases have been on a pro bono basis for the ACLU and Planned Parenthood. He continues to take pro bono cases and said he’s proud his law firm, Holland & Hart, supports pro bono work.

Newal said that after seeing so many disputes over the years he still believes people to be genuinely good. “I’m not a cynic,” he said, adding that “I believe that most of the time people are trying to do the right thing as they see it. Still, they can have honest disputes. That’s what the law is for.”

And before trial or going to court, does he still get butterflies? Newal laughs answering in the affirmative. “The older you get, the

more you realize how things can go wrong. So rather than a level of comfort, you better not be complacent or take things for granted.”

Newal said he’s been lucky to have had important mentors and role models, like R.B. Kading, Jr., John Hepworth, Mike McNichols, Jess Hawley, Bob Alexander, Lou Racine, Bill Olson, Fred Hoopes, Chuck McDevitt, Lou Cosho, Ailyn Dingel, Allen Derr, Walt Bithell, Craig Meadows, Dick Greener, and others.

When asked about the downside of modern legal practice, Newal responded about how litigation has become an increasingly expensive option and process. Access to justice

for normal people and many businesses continues to be a problem. “I believe that the judicial system is a pretty good way to resolve a dispute,” he said. “But for cases involving under \$50K - \$100K, the cost of trying that case can be prohibitively expensive.”

One of the problems driving the cost of litigation is the sheer number of emails lawyers have to sift through in discovery. “We used to read all the documents. Now we need a system just to manage, sort, and scan all the emails for the important information,” he said.

But scan, sift, sort or problem-solve, Newal still loves litigation and is happy to be a lawyer. “At this stage in my career,” he said, “things are no different. I still work hard. The last 9 or 10 months I’ve been working at a pace almost as intense as any time in my career.” “I will

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— *Newal Squyres*



keep doing this as long as someone will hire me.”

The most positive influence in Newal’s life has been his wife of 47 years, Linda, and his children Isaac and Ruby. Isaac was adventuresome enough not to become a lawyer, entering the world of strategic communications and public relations. Ruby practices law in Salt Lake City

where her husband, Jeff Redshaw, is completing a residency in urology at the University of Utah. Granddaughter Sophie Squyres (10 and a half) is amazing and, along with her cousin Elise, Ruby and Jeff’s daughter born a month ago, reminds Newal daily of what’s really important in life.