

WYOMING DISTRICT JUDGES' CONFERENCE

Thermopolis April 27 & 28, 2001 Meeting MINUTES

Present: Brackley, Donnell, Grant, Guthrie, Hartman, Kautz, Park, Perry, Price, Ryckman, Sanderson, Stebner, Sullins

Absent: Rogers, Patrick, Kalokathis

RULES: The first set of written Rules Governing the Organization of the District Judges' Conference was proposed by Judge Brackley. After discussion, Rule 106(c) regarding a per diem ceiling on travel reimbursement was amended from a proposed set rate to a rate to be established by the B.P.J.A. Donnell made a motion that the rules as amended be adopted, Guthrie seconded and said Rules were unanimously adopted.

QUORUM: Attendance of thirteen (13) judges constituted the quorum for the transaction of business mandated by Rule 106 of the Conference.

B.P.J.A. MEMBERSHIP: Vacancies on Board of Judicial Policy and Administration: On motion of Donnell, seconded by Guthrie, Kautz was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy created by Voight's lateral transfer to the Supreme Court. Grant was unanimously elected to fill Hartman's position on the Board beginning July 1, 2001 for a term ending 6-30-04.

Current District Judges and terms on the B.P.J.A. are:

Donnell	- present to 6-30-02
Hartman	- present to 7-1-01
Kautz	- present to 6-30-03

B.J.P.A. REPORT: Hartman and Donnell reported to the Conference concerning BJPA business including: travel expense and mileage, deferred compensation, WestLaw fund restoration, transcript fee, procurement card – budget workshop, judicial pay raise, budgets, and judicial staff pay increase. The BJPA requested certain of these issues be formally addressed by the District Judges' Conference and were acted upon as follows:

1. Deferred Compensation: On motion of Kautz, seconded by Perry, the Conference voted unanimously to adopt the proposal to provide a State match of \$20.00 per month for qualified judicial branch employees who qualify by contributing not less than \$20.00 per month from their salary to the State Deferred Compensation Plan. This proposal has been offered to executive branch employees.
2. WestLaw fund restoration: On motion of Kautz, seconded by Price, the Conference voted unanimously to have the Court Services Office re-code the

WestLaw payments from July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2001 to the new appropriation to free up funds in the 209 object code of each budget where WestLaw is expensed from.

3. 2003-2004 Biennium Budget Process: The Conference voted 12 in favor, 1 opposed to a resolution to approve the procedure whereby the District Court Budgets be presented to the Legislature in a block grant form rather than by individual budgets.

4. Judicial staff pay increase: On motion by Grant, seconded by Donnell, the Conference voted unanimously to approve the projected annual salary, as of July 1, 2001, for Court Reporters of \$42,500.00.

JUDICIAL ETHICS: The Conference confirmed unanimously the election of Kalokathis to fill the vacancy on the Commission on Judicial Ethics and Conduct created by the expiration of Grant's term. The three year term for Kalokathis began 3-1-01.

CURRENT CONFERENCE OFFICERS: Pursuant to the "Rules Governing the Organization of the District Judges Conference," the Conference unanimously agreed the following officers shall serve until the election of new officers at the September 2001 meeting.

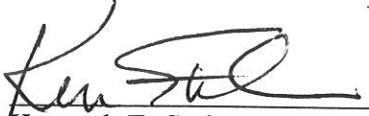
President – John Brackley
Vice President – Ken Stebner
Secretary/Treasurer – Nancy Guthrie

TROUGHTON RETIREMENT: The Conference determined to purchase an appropriate certificate to present to John Troughton in recognition of his years of service on the District Court Bench. Sullins and Park agreed to make the necessary arrangements.

LEGISLATIVE: Senators Schiffer and Job from the Judiciary Committee spoke with the Conference.

D.F.S.: Director Lehman spoke to us about child support issues.

SEPTEMBER MEETING: Members of the Conference are encouraged to attend our next meeting in conjunction with the State Bar Association Annual Meeting September 11-14, 2001 in Cheyenne.


Kenneth E. Stebner