



## DISTRICT JUDGES CONFERENCE MEETING

September 9, 2003

The September meeting of the Wyoming District Judges Conference was held at the Hitching Post Inn in Cheyenne, Wyoming on September 9, 2003. Present for the meeting were Judges Guthrie, Kautz, Ryckman, Stebner, Park, Brooks, Grant, Hartman, Donnell, Kalokathis, Skavdaal, Sullins, Burke, James and Brackley.

The Minutes of the meeting of April 3, 2003 were read and approved on unanimous motion.

Judge Donnell presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported the conference account had a current balance of 



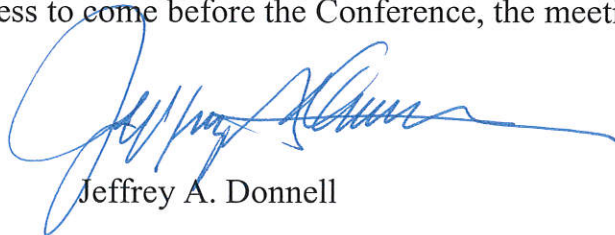
Lisa Skiles Parady and Jim Palmer made a presentation on implementation of the Addicted Offenders Accountability Act which went into effect on July 1, 2003.

Judge Kautz discussed issues concerning alternate jurors and possible amendments to the W.R.Cr.P. concerning substitution of alternate jurors. No action was taken by the Conference. He also discussed issues concerning *res judicata* in paternity cases and possible representation of the District Court's position in a case currently pending before the Supreme Court. Various suggestions were offered, but no formal action was taken by the Conference.

Judge Burke discussed issues concerning the possible appointment of a Law Clerk for each judge, and pay scales for Law Clerks commensurate with salaries paid to Law Clerks in the Supreme Court. The general consensus of the group was that each judge who wanted a Law Clerk should build the cost of such into their annual budget request, and that proposed salaries should be equal to the salaries paid to the Supreme Court's Law Clerks. The group generally approved of the proposal that district courts should be free to hire staff attorneys to serve at will and for as long as the parties desire, rather than Law Clerks whose terms are limited to two years, if any particular judge so desires. The Conference felt this was a decision that could be made by each judge depending on his/her particular circumstances.

Judge Hartman discussed issues concerning mandatory settlement conferences. There was general discussion on the topic, but no action was taken. Also discussed was an issue concerning free-lance work by official court reporters. Judge Grant noted that a policy had been adopted several years ago whereby official court reporters would not be permitted to do free-lance work. The Conference determined that this policy should remain in effect.

There being no further business to come before the Conference, the meeting was adjourned.



Jeffrey A. Donnell

District Judge