

DISTRICT JUDGES' CONFERENCE
December 11-12, 2008
Casper, Wyoming

A meeting of the District Judges' conference was held December 11-12 at the Holiday Inn Express in Casper Wyoming. The following were present: Brooks, Davis, Deegan, Donnell, Fenn, Grant, James, Kautz, Price, Ryckman, Skavdahl, Sullins, Tyler, Waldrip, Young.

The minutes from the September 2008 meeting in Cheyenne, and the treasurer's report were approved. The treasurer's report showed an account balance of [REDACTED] as of November 26, 2008.

Continuing Judicial Education. There were several presentations for CJE credit. Jeff Brinkerhoff and Mark Gifford discussed the pros and cons of complex litigation from the practioners standpoint. Judge Fenn led a discussion on GAL issues. Justice Burke discussed the points the Supreme Court finds helpful from the District Court in appeals. Judge Davis discussed recent changes to the rules of civil procedure, rules 26, 33, 34, and 37. Judge Skavdahl presented changes to rules 5, 40, 45, 77, and in particular Rule 56.1 (required statement of facts not in controversy in summary judgment proceedings). Justice Voigt and Senator Ross reviewed the various draft legislative proposals concern drug courts. Jeff Herb and Nicole Anderson previewd a new DFS assessment program

New Business. There was a discussion concerning a proposed district court rule for the continuing certification and continuing education of official court reporters. On motion by Brooks, second by Waldrip, the proposed rule was approved for consideration by the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration.

Judge Grant proposed several proposed amendments and / or changes to Title 14:

- a. Provide for publication notice to a putative father.
- b. Provide for adoption without the consent of the putative father if he has been served notice by publication an abuse / neglect action.
- c. To provide jurisdiction for the juvenile court to hear petitions for adoption, guardianship proceedings, and termination of parental rights in abuse / neglect actions
- d. Establish a requirement that the Department of Family Services promulgate reasonable rules and regulations to implement reasonable efforts requirements or achieve other permanency goals, to define compliance with a case plan, and factors which make return of a child to a parent contrary to a child's welfare.

After discussion Judge Young moved, seconded by Judge Davis that the Conference adopt Judge Grant's proposals in principle.

Other Business. Judge Brooks advised that Joann Odendahl would attend the spring meeting to discuss budget issues. There being no further business, a general discussion for the good of the order was followed by adjournment until the spring meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Young
Secretary / Treasurer