

Minutes of September 9, 2015

District Court Conference Meeting

Those present:

Steven R. Cranfill, Michael N. Deagan, Timothy C. Day, Daniel L. Forgey, John C. Brooks, W. Thomas Sullins, Nena R. James, Wade E. Waldrip, John G. Fenn, Thomas W. Rumpke, Thomas T.C. Campbell, Richard L. Lavery, Joseph B. Bluemel, Catherine R. Rogers, Norman E. Young, Steve K. Sharp, Marvin L. Tyler, Catherine Wilking and Robert E. Skar. Keith Kautz was present but was sworn in as Supreme Court Justice Aug. 4, 2015 and Pat Korell was present but was not sworn in until October 2015.

Those not present:

John R. Perry, Jeffrey A. Donnell, and William J. Edelman

Chief Justice Burke spoke to the conference about pursuing a raise for the judges of 3 to 5 % and bringing the Circuit Court Judge's salary closer to the District Court Judge's salary.

Richard H. Honaker and Deborah G. M. Kellam spoke to the conference about the pros and cons to simultaneous expert witness designation.

Steve Lindley from the Department of Corrections spoke to the conference about evidence based sentences and the risk assessments being done along with PSI's. He also updated the conference on the incarceration and probation numbers, how our recidivism rate is compared to other states and proposing sponsoring 90 to 120 day substance abuse treatment at a DOC facility.

Lilly Sharpe updated the conference on IT upgrade monies. She also talked of obtaining a study of what a good baseline courtroom would look like. She talked of the State having \$4,000,000 in the automation account but to upgrade everyone might cost \$14,000,000.

Steve Dreher, Jennifer Petrella and Lily Sharpe would like completed information from each Court as to what our Audio, Visual and other electronic needs are.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nicholas Deagan moved to nominate the following Officers:

Marvin L. Tyler – Secretary/Treasurer

Robert E. Skar – Vice President

John G. Fenn – President

Norman L. Young seconded the nomination. No discussion was had. Motion carried unanimously.

Judge Skar brought up some language inconsistencies under the \$200,000.00 or less probates that went into effect July 1, 2015 concerning notification of beneficiaries. The District Courts could require proof of the notification before signing the Decree of Distribution.

John Fenn gave a treasurer's report, [REDACTED]

Joseph Bluemel led a discussion on Title 25 changes.

The next District Court Conference Meeting was set for December 17 and 18, 2015 in Casper. Location to be announced. The Spring meeting will be in Sheridan on April 21-22, 2015. If you have any suggested topics let Judge Fenn know.

Secretary/Treasurer

Robert E. Skar