

MINUTES
District Court Judges' Conference Meeting
April 21-22, 2016
Sheridan/Big Horn, WY

April 21, 2016

The first day's meeting of the District Judges' Conference at the Bradford Brinton Museum began shortly after 1:00 o'clock p.m. on April 21, 2016, when Judge Fenn opened the meeting and welcomed the participants and guests. A quorum was present/in attendance (*i.e.*, more than 12 District Court Judges).

Professor Terry Coonan gave a presentation entitled "*Human Trafficking: What Wyoming Judges Need to Know.*"¹ This program was presented by Florida State University's Center for Advancement of Human Rights and the National Judicial College, and it was sponsored by the State Justice Institute.

Diane Lozano and Ryan Roden of the Wyoming Public Defender's Office, Matt Redle, Sheridan County Attorney, and Mark Gifford of the Office of Bar Counsel – Wyoming State Bar spoke to the Conference about Public Defender caseloads, budget cuts, and ethical considerations.²

Judge Rumpke, a member of the Permanent Rules Advisory Committee (Civil Division), addressed the Civil Committee's proposed changes to the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure, and he highlighted several specific Rule changes. Upon motion by Judge Campbell, seconded by Judge Brooks, and carried unanimously, the Conference passed a Resolution opposing the proposed change to Rule 16 which would require that "the judge must issue [a scheduling order] with the earlier of 90 days after any defendant has been served with the complaint or 60 days after any defendant has appeared."³

*For the Good of the Order*⁴

Judge Fenn spoke about budget reductions, expected to be approximately 5% (non-payroll) cuts.

Judge Tyler presented the Minutes from the December 17, 2015, and the Treasurer's Report as of April 8, 2016. Upon motion by Judge Young, seconded by Judge Donnell, and

¹ This was approved for 2.0 CJE hours.

² This was approved for 1.0 CJE hour.

³ This was included in the *For the Good of the Order* section of the program for approved CJE. See FN 4, *infra*.

⁴ This was approved for 1.0 CJE hour.

carried unanimously, the Minutes and the Treasurer's Report were accepted.

Judge Fenn led a discussion regarding the Juvenile Court Rules Committee.

Judge Young inquired as to the status of electronic filing, upon which some discussion ensued.

Judge Tyler reported on a recent meeting of the Wyoming Court Security Commission.

April 22, 2016

The second day's meeting of the District Judges' Conference at the Bradford Brinton Museum began shortly after 8:00 o'clock a.m. on April 22, 2016. A quorum was present/in attendance.

George Eason, Wyoming Retirement System, gave a presentation on judicial and general retirement.⁵

Chief Justice Burke addressed the Conference on many topics, including: the work of the Permanent Rules Advisory Committee (Civil Division); the elder law task force; the status of the Learning Center; the successes and plans for the "You Be the Judge" program; that the merit selection system being under attack in some States; the Judicial Education Committee; the Courtroom Technology Committee objectives; the judicial branch website; the jury management software system; the status of electronic filing, case management, and WY-USER; a recent NCSC assessment; and, he commended the work of staff (particularly Kristi Racines and Lily Sharpe) in the recent legislative budget session. Court Administrator Lily Sharpe spoke to the Conference about budget reductions and forecasts. Chief Information Officer Julie Goyen also discussed the jury management system.⁶

For the Good of the Order⁷

Upon motion by Judge Waldrip, seconded by Judge Day, and carried unanimously, the Conference passed a Resolution recognizing and commending Senator Phil Nicholas, Representative Kermit Brown, and Senator Tony Ross for their legislative service and their support of issues involving the judiciary.

Judge Fenn relayed Judge Cranfill's request to contact him if anyone wanted to follow up on the materials regarding the Bar/Bench Relations Judicial Survey or CASA Statewide Network.

⁵ This was approved for 2.0 CJE hours.

⁶ This was approved for 1.0 CJE hour.

⁷ This was approved for 1.0 CJE hour.

The new judicial website was discussed. Judge Deegan agreed to take the lead on the issues which may arise in this regard.

The BJPA intends to address the issue of recovery of costs and Rule 501. A discussion regarding expert witness fees ensued.

Agency budgets and budget cut impacts to the Department of Health, Department of Family Services, and Department of Corrections were discussed.

New statutes, juvenile court case management data, and E-IV audits were discussed.

Upon motion, second, and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Marv Tyler
District Judges' Conference Secretary-Treasurer