

MINUTES

District Court Conference Meeting November 29-30th, 2018

Casper, Wyoming

The District Court Conference meeting began at 1:00 p.m. on November 29, 2018 at the Townsend Justice Center in Casper, Wyoming. Conference President, Judge Day, opened the meeting with the following members present, Judges Snyder, Wilking, Forgey, Tyler, Overfield, Young, and Kricken in person, and Judge Rumpke by phone, and Judges Korell and James via surface hub.

The welcome by Judge Day was followed by a presentation from Justice Fox and Kristi Racines. Kristi Racines was elected State Auditor and Eydie Trautwein will join Kristi as her deputy. Kristi advised she did not see a lot of risk to the existing budgets because of past cuts the judiciary made and a better overall economic picture for the State. Justice Fox announced that Whitney Agopian will replace Eydie as the new CJP coordinator. Justice Fox also announced they were looking for judges who are interested to sign up for the CANI training in Reno with all expenses covered by the CJP. Justice Fox also advised the CJP is open to requests for data gathering by the CJP to assist us with our individual juvenile dockets. Justice Fox then advised that the BJP supports asking for a raise this legislative session. The plan is to ask that all three court levels receive raises with a proposed 15k increase for each, \$180k for Supreme Court, \$165k for District Court, and \$150k for Circuit Court. Justice Fox advised that the five-page memo on salary research will be used when seeking the raises. Justice Fox finally noted that Judge Tyler had resigned from the Court Technology Committee and she asked that the conference present a member to replace him on the committee.

Tara France and Lance Oviatt discussed several issues of importance to the Wyoming Professional Court Reporters Association. They presented a *Position Paper Regarding Criminal Transcripts* to the meeting participants. The main issue in the paper was whether official court reporters should provide copies of appellate transcripts to the Wyoming Attorney General's Office without compensation. Lance Oviatt outlined the position of the WPCRA, that the official reporters should not be required to provide a copy of the transcript, electronic or hard copy, free of charge to the appellee in a criminal case. However, W.S. §5-3-410(e) does say the reporter "may charge" for the copy, therefore if an individual reporter is willing to provide a copy free of charge they may do so. Lance Oviatt asked the District Court Conference to send a letter to District Court Clerk's reminding them of Uniform Rules for District Courts 908(e), and that copies should not be made of the transcripts even though the original is in the court file as it is the work-product of the reporter. Tara France then explained the new set-up for the court reporter network and that all real time will be internet based now since the reporters are no longer allowed on the State network. Tara France also advised the reporters want a page rate increase to

offset the increased costs for software and equipment. She said it has been 18-19 years since there was an increase and they are using the federal system to determine what increase they should seek. She also advised the reporters would not seek the increase unless and until the raises for the judiciary were secured. Tara France also advised that she is working with court administration to incentivize reporters to become real-time certified as funds were allocated several years ago to give reporters a 10% raise if they become certified.

Nate Goddard and Tyler Christopherson provided training on OneDrive.

Senator Perkins, Representative Harshman, Representative Kirkbride, and Senator Boner joined the meeting and discussed various topics, including revenue and taxation, sentencing and expungement, and a proposed Chancery Court.

The meeting continued at 8:30 a.m. on November 30, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Casper, Wyoming. Judge Day was present, as were Judge James, Judge Sullins, Judge Tyler, Judge Peasley, Judge Snyder, Judge Overfield, Judge Bluemel, Judge Wilking, Judge Young, Judge Waldrip, and Judges Perry, Edelman, and Kricken via phone.

Judges Waldrip, Sullins and Kricken presented a *Review of the Code of Judicial Conduct and Practice Tips* for addressing Self-represented litigants. Justice Boomgaarden and Angie Dorsch, outlined Equal Justice's approach to pro-se litigants, and Barbara Prescott described the Teton County Access to Justice Center's practices and procedures to address pro-se litigants.

Governor-elect Gordon called in to the meeting and gave a brief overview of his plans for staffing, appointments, and expressed support for the judiciary as a whole.

The business meeting began with a call to order by Judge Day. The Conference minutes from the prior meeting were approved upon motion of Judge Bluemel seconded by Judge Tyler. The treasurer's report was approved upon motion of Judge Bluemel seconded by Judge Perry.

Reports, information and updates were provided on the following: Court Automation Committee, Court Security, Courtroom technology, and Rules committees. Judge Tyler reported that Court Security is finalizing grants to applicants in Carbon, Kemmerer, Uinta, and Converse counties. Judge Tyler also advised that the Court Technology Committee needs a new member due to his resignation. Judge Day will email members to gauge interest in a replacement. Judge Day read an email from Judge Edelman on the Criminal Rules Committee. Judge Day advised Judge Cranfill is on Governor-elect Gordon's transition team and extended an invitation to all inauguration-related

events. Judge Tyler advised that with Judge Sullins' retirement there will need to be a replacement for him on the Judicial Education Committee.

Upcoming vacancies and judicial orientations were also discussed.

Judicial Salary increases were discussed further.

For the Good of the Order

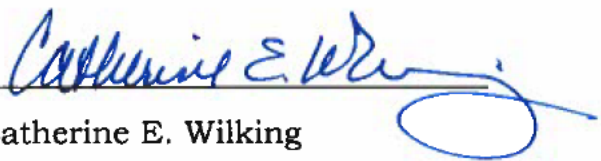
Old Business-at the next meeting a potential amendment to the bylaws may be in order to change the number for a quorum given the change to the number of judges within the conference.

New Business-On behalf of the Conference, Judge Wilking presented Judge Sullins with retirement gifts and expressed appreciation for his incredible service as a judge, a mentor, and a colleague.

The next meeting will be in April, actual dates to be provided in the future.

Upon motion by Judge Young, seconded by Judge Bluemel, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at approximately 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine E. Wilking", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large loop at the end.

Catherine E. Wilking

Secretary/Treasurer