

MINUTES

District Court Conference Meeting May 2-3rd, 2019

May 2, 2019

The District Court Conference meeting began at 1:00 p.m. on May 2, 2019 at the Fremont County Courthouse, in Lander, Wyoming.

Conference President, Judge Day opened the meeting with the following members present: Judges Perry, Sharpe, Young, Tyler, Deegan, Johnson, Lavery, Snyder, Froelicher, Wilking, and Overfield in person, and Judge Rumpke appearing via surface hub.

Other individuals attending the meeting were Lily Sharpe in person, and Crystal Girolami via surface hub.

The welcome by Judge Day was followed by a presentation from Court IT from 1:05-1:45. Court IT provided an overview of Teams, Rapid 7, Barracuda, and a new VPN with MFA.

From 1:45- 2:00 the conference participated in a telephone call with Governor Gordon and his counsel. Governor Gordon discussed ongoing issues with retention in the Public Defender's Office, and the newly created Chancery Court's benefit to the State.

From 2:00-2:05 Chief Justice Davis and Justice Fox (via surface hub) presented on the Chancery Court and advised that many questions remain unanswered and the statute does not provide much guidance. There is a small group working on the rules for the Chancery Court, which includes Justice Fox, Chief Justice Davis, Judge Fenn, and Judge Waldrip. It is not clear who will be a chancery judge it could be retired judges or a panel of DJs. The site for the court and the clerk's office is also unknown, but there is a requirement that the site have sufficient courtroom technology infrastructure which essentially limits the prospects to a few courtrooms in the state.

From 2:00-2:05 Justice Fox presented on the proposed Office of Parent Counsel and the plan to move the GAL out of the PD's office.

From 2:05-2:15 Chief Justice Davis discussed the idea of trying to get court salaries tied to raises received by other state employees. He also mentioned that if anyone is planning to retire, they are encouraged to notify the Chief about potential dates so the judicial nominating commission can space the work out more evenly in the future.

2:30-2:50 group photo with Allen Sinner

3:00-5:15 Evidence presentation by Professor Steve Easton

5:15 Adjourn

[REDACTED]
Judge Waldrip's presentation of retirement gift to Judge Young

Friday May 3, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Judge Day with the following members present: Judges Perry, Bluemel, Tyler, Snyder, Deegan, Froelicher, Sharpe, Young, Johnson, Lavery, Overfield, Wilking, Judges Rogers, James, Forgey, and Rumpke appearing via surface hub.

Crystal Girolami also attended the meeting via surface hub.

From 8:05-8:35 Bob Cecrle provided a child support update. He advised there is a new law that requires child support enforcement to recover birth costs for new mothers. He advised it will mainly involve unwed mothers receiving Medicaid. He also warned that we will be seeing a lot of zero-dollar orders, because of income levels and incarceration. He advised the child support guidelines/tables stayed the same, but the shared custody calculation was added, and the statutory minimum was removed in favor of the self-support reserve calculation.

Childsupport.wyo.gov has the new the calculator.

From 8:40 to 9:05 Tara France (in person) and Lance Oviatt (via surface hub) presented on court reporter updates. They are exploring recruiting efforts to address the fact that at times judges haven't had applicants for open positions.

Instead of asking for a page rate request (as was presented at our November 2018 meeting), they are now seeking a salary increase. They believe this is more equal, as a raise benefits all of them versus a page rate increase that would benefit the busier jurisdictions. The statute requires court reporter salaries be determined by the Wyoming Supreme Court rather than through legislative requests. There has not been a salary increase since the nineties. They advised that currently the salary is \$61,200.00 (with the small bump for state employees) and it could be \$66,000 if they were real time certified.

Tara provided a handout showing the different rates of pay for reporters in other states.

Lance presented on the issues with Realtime starting and stopping because of the automatic time out security provision set up by court technology.

A possible solution is for judges to buy a device that can be hooked up to the court reporter network, like an iPad or a Kindle.

From 9:05-9:20 Justice Boomgaarden and Angie Dorsch presented via surface hub on a proposed fee waiver rule for self-represented litigants. A handout was provided. They believe a rule is needed because there is not uniformity on what sorts of cases are allowed fee waivers, with some judges only allowing it in divorce cases while others allow it in other family law types of cases.

The preference is to draft a rule through the Wyoming Supreme Court rather than through legislation (per Sen. Nethercott's request, as she is on the Access to Justice Committee now).

From 9:30-9:50 Claire Smith presented on our respective budgets. She outlined a new format for budgets and will provide those to us each month.

She advised there is no wiggle room in the 100 series so if we want to pay law clerks more, or have higher than normal transcript fees, a supplemental budget request is required.

Monies from the 200 series can be moved into the 900 series and monies can be shared between district courts as well.

307-777-7502 Claire's direct line

She is aware that we will be presenting a uniform budget introduction to her which she said will be helpful.

From 10:00-12:00 Judge Day conducted the conference business meeting

Judge Day asked Crystal Girolami to disconnect from the meeting at this time.

A quorum of the conference was present.

Judge Snyder moved to approve the November 2018 minutes, and with a second by Judge Perry the November 2018 minutes were approved.

Judge Bluemel moved to approve the Treasurer's report and with a second by Judge Deegan the Treasurer's report was approved.

Committee reports

Judge Young is retiring and will no longer serve on the Judicial Conduct and Ethics Commission leaving a vacancy effective June 15, 2019. Judge Young nominated Judge Lavery to replace him on the Commission which was seconded

by Judge Sharpe, all members in attendance approved and Judge Lavery was appointed to replace Judge Young on the Commission.

Judge Snyder gave an update on the CJP-Families First funding stream and the Casey Family Foundation Jurist in Residence program.

Old Business

The recent salary bill was discussed, and Judge Day gave a brief explanation of how the bill progressed through the legislative session. He agrees that there should be a mechanism in place to have salary issues addressed so it doesn't have to be done in this fashion in the future.

Regarding the 15-minute screen lock-Julie Goyen was asked at the last meeting to address this and she responded to Judge Day with an email outlining the only option as court IT sees it (buying a separate device that wouldn't be on the network). A discussion as to the sufficiency of the response followed.

New Business

Proposed budget narratives---Judge Rumpke and Judge Bluemel drafted a new budget narrative to have uniformity when we submit our budget requests. Judge Tyler suggested adding language to reflect our responsibilities as constitutionally created courts. Judge Lavery suggested there be additional opportunities to explain the differences in the jurisdictions across the state. A cover sheet containing such information was discussed. Judge Tyler moved, and Judge Deegan seconded the adoption of the uniform narrative and the creation of a standing budget narrative committee with Judge Bluemel and Judge Rumpke as the initial members. All in attendance approved and the conference members will use the uniform narrative (with individual additions as needed) and the budget narrative committee was created.

Circuit Courts-Judge Deegan discussed the potential of expanding certain responsibilities of Circuit Court Judges. Judge Deegan, Judge Campbell, and Judge Rogers agreed to be on a committee to discuss the matter and will report back to the conference at the next meeting.

Judge Day will advise Justice Boomgaarden about the judge's thoughts as to the fee waiver rule and will await receipt of any proposed rule before providing further comment.

Issues regarding court administration, IT Resource Committee mandates, WYUSER access, confidentiality and calendaring were discussed.

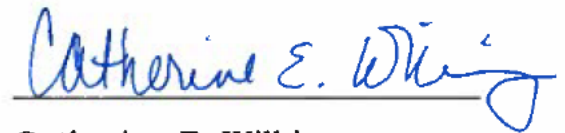
Judge Lavery advised there will be a very good speaker at the Fall Judicial Conference-Dr. Sheinvold- and there is some discussion about cost sharing for bringing this speaker to the bar convention and conference meetings (both circuit

and district court conferences). He will speak on Tuesday afternoon on a variety of topics in family law. Members discussed topics they would like him to cover in October.

Issues between the conference and the BJPA were discussed. Judge Snyder moved to form a committee to discuss the matter and with a second by Judge Tyler the motion was approved, and the committee was created. The committee members are Judge Snyder, Judge Tyler, Judge Day, Judge Lavery, Judge Wilking, and Judge Campbell and the committee will report back to the conference at the next meeting.

12:00 noon meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine E. Wilking". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Catherine E. Wilking

Secretary/Treasurer