

Equal Justice Wyoming (EJW) and Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation (EJWF) Joint Strategic Plan

Strategic planning session held September 18, 2021, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm via zoom.

EJW Board Members in Attendance: Brooke Barney, Jacquelyn Bridgeman, Stuart Day, Cathy Duncil, Walter Eggers, Jennifer Hanft, Katie Hogarty, Tyson Logan

EJWF Board Members in Attendance: Susan Combs, Walter Eggers, Nick Haderlie, Kristen Schlattmann, Leah Schwartz, Sharon Wilkinson

EJW Staff in Attendance: Angie Dorsch, Leora Hoshall, Jessica Wales, Thomas Liu

Others in Attendance: Justice Lynne Boomgaarden (Chair of the Access to Justice Commission)

Facilitators: Kassie Gram (morning), Naomi Snodgrass (afternoon), Lukas Cramer of Public Knowledge



**EQUAL
JUSTICE**
W Y O M I N G



EQUAL JUSTICE
WYOMING FOUNDATION

Equal Justice Wyoming is a state-funded civil legal services program working with Wyoming legal aid providers and community organizations to help people with limited income find help for their legal problems.

Vision: Equal access to justice for the people of Wyoming.

Mission: Serving the legal needs of low-income persons of Wyoming through community engagement, education, information, and expansion of legal services throughout the state.

The Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation strengthens and defends access to justice and civil legal services in Wyoming through fundraising and other supportive activities. Our guiding principle is that every individual should have full and equal access to justice, regardless of his or her financial means.

We do this primarily by providing grants to civil legal service providers and supporting educational efforts.

Roles and Responsibilities

Equal Justice Wyoming (EJW)

- Provide staff support for EJW and EJWF
- Manage state funding for civil legal aid
- Manage some federal funding designated for civil legal aid
- Manage statewide pro bono program in partnership with the Wyoming State Bar
- Work with the Wyoming Access to Justice Commission to address systemic barriers
- Create and manage self-help resources for pro se litigants
- Identify new government resources to support civil legal aid (ERAP, ARPA funds)
- Develop new resources
- Assist grantees with training and technical assistance
- Steward public/government funding as part of the court system

Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation (EJWF)

- Administer Wyoming's Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program
- Distribute Bank of America funds
- Seek private fundraising opportunities
- Coordinate with Wyoming State Bar and Wyoming Access to Justice Commission to support justice initiatives
- Make grant awards from IOLTA and other sources

Access to Justice Commission (AJC)

- Act as an advisory body to the Supreme Court in support of EJW functions
- Acquire and maintain funding and other resources in support of EJW
- Exercise limited, focused, independent oversight over EJW as contemplated by the Act and the Order
- Serve as a resource to EJW for specific tasks where the EJW Board determines the Commission can be most helpful

All (EJW, EJWF & AJC)

- Expand community education and outreach

Shared Vision for EJW/EJWF

Our shared vision: Three to five years from now, we have a sustainable and diversified revenue; we have reduced or eliminated known barriers to access to justice; we have enhanced and sustainable partnership collaboration; and we have increased public awareness.

1. Sustainable and Diversified Revenue

- Substantially increase reliable and sustainable funding resources
- Increase private fundraising
- Establish meaningful endowment

2. Reduce or eliminate barriers to access to justice

- Ensure that grantees are responsive and effectively providing services
- Initiate a joint reform access to justice project that involves our bench, bar, and UW
- Expand pro se filing forms and electronic access
- Explore additional needs assessments
- Improve access to justice for all, regardless of location in the state
- Increase availability of legal resources and delivery of services
- Explore ways to leverage resources
- Maintain a program that is fully staffed with satisfied professionals

3. Enhance and sustain partnerships and collaboration

- Develop strong stakeholder support and buy-in (including from pro bono attorneys)
- Strengthen relationships in the community
- Broaden our network of providers
- Expand outreach and program awareness
- Formalize the collaboration between AJC, EJW, and EJWF
- Integrate the delivery system for civil legal services
- Seek opportunities to collaborate with service providers, educators, and other entities
- Maintain partnerships and increase collaboration with the bench, bar, and UW

4. Increase public awareness

- Collect meaningful data and celebrate success stories
- Increase provision of legal services to indigent individuals
- Present additional community education events