

Minutes
Conference Call, March 12, 2002, 7:30 a.m.
Board of Judicial Policy and Administration

The Board of Judicial Policy and Administration met by conference call on March 12, 2002. Chief Justice Larry Lehman, Justice William Hill, Justice Bart Voigt, Judge Ed Grant, Judge Keith Kautz, Judge Jeff Donnell, Judge Rob Denhardt, Judge Frank Zebre, and Judge Wade Waldrip attended. Holly Hansen, Matt Fermelia, and Linda Burke also attended.

1. Approval of February 11 and 12, 2002 Minutes.

Judge Zebre moved and Judge Waldrip seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11 and 12, 2002, Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Report on Judicial Salaries

Chief Justice Lehman reported to the Board that the House approved an amendment for judicial salaries at the \$107,000/\$102,000/\$84,000 level. The amendment will then go to the Senate for approval. If the Senate does not agree, the amendment moves to an open committee and then back to the House and Senate for approval.

3. District Court Judge – Natrona County

Chief Justice Lehman and Judge Kautz reported that as far as they knew, the Natrona County Commissioners have not made recent progress on establishing facilities for the new district judge in Natrona County. Judge Kautz volunteered to draft a letter to the commissioners suggesting a timetable for providing adequate facilities for the new judge. Judge Kautz will send the draft to the Chief for his review and the Chief will circulate to the Board for its approval.

4. Employee Information – Supreme Court and Circuit Courts

The Board agreed that after review and approval of the Employee Information for For-Cause Employees by Judges Denhardt, Waldrip, and Zebre, Holly Hansen might circulate Employee Information for At-Will and For-Cause Employees to the Supreme Court Justices and the Circuit Court Judges. Judge Zebre suggested that the cover letter to the judges clarify that the At-Will Employee Information applies to any at-will employee hired prior to December 11, 2001, and to all employees hired on or after December 11, 2001.

5. Citizens' Access to Courts Committee (CACC)
Order Establishing Charges for the Distribution of Citizens' Access to Courts
Committee Pro Se Packets

After brief discussion, Judge Donnell moved and Judge Kautz seconded a motion for Chief Justice Lehman to sign the CACC's Order. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Justice of the Peace Transition to Circuit Court System

Holly Hansen stated that she spoke with Jan Friedlund about her concerns relating to the transition of the Teton Justice of the Peace court into the Circuit Court system. Prior to the actual transition, Jan Friedlund is requesting clarification about having the employees decline the housing allowance and decline the health insurance, and the relationship of longevity to leave accruals. The Board determined that it would not object if the employees making the transition from Teton Justice of the Peace Court to Circuit Court were to decline the state's housing allowance and health insurance. Furthermore, the Board has no objection if Teton County wishes to augment these employees' salaries and provide their health insurance coverage. Chief Justice Lehman asked Holly Hansen to draft a Memo of Understanding to address these issues.

7. Natrona County GALs

The Board agreed that before it takes any action concerning the GAL problem in Natrona County, the Chief will contact the two Natrona County district judges and report their viewpoints back to the Board.

Future Board Meeting Schedule

The Board agreed to tentatively schedule the April conference call for April 16, 2002, at 7:30 am, in place of the previously scheduled call on April 9, 2002.

Board Adjourned at 8:10 a.m.