

Board of Judicial Policy and Administration
Minutes
June 26, 2013

The Board of Judicial Policy and Administration held a phone meeting on June 26, 2013. In attendance were Chief Justice Marilyn Kite, Justice Jim Burke, Judge Jeffrey Donnell, Judge Tom Campbell, Judge Robert Castor, Judge Wes Roberts, Judge Curt Haws, Georgia Tibbetts, Joann Odendahl, Ronda Munger, Kristi Racines, and Becky Craig. Chief Justice Kite explained to the Board that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the salary formula for full-time magistrates, and to address an issue that was brought to light by Judge Harrington concerning Magistrate Jurovich's pay.

Chief Justice Kite reminded the Board that the salaries for the full-time circuit court magistrates are based on a formula that was created by the BJPA in 2001 that accounts for a base salary, the case workload (identified by the Workload Study), and the amount of time a circuit judge is available to cover the workload in that county. She explained that when Ron Jurovich was appointed as the Hot Springs County Circuit Court Magistrate in 2009, his salary was mistakenly calculated on the Washakie County Circuit Court's workload, rather than on the Hot Springs County Circuit Court's workload that is substantially less. This oversight resulted in excess compensation being paid to Magistrate Jurovich for a period of four years. Chief Justice Kite stated that this matter was brought to Mr. Jurovich's attention by a phone call and follow-up letter from Joann Odendahl that explained the mistake and advised that a correction would need to be made as of July 1, 2013 to adjust his pay to the amount that would conform to the salary formula. Joann reported that a conference call was held on June 19, 2013 between Mr. Jurovich, Chief Justice Kite, Judge Harrington and herself. She related that during the conversation, Mr. Jurovich voiced his objection to the salary adjustment.

Discussion was held by the Board. Judge Donnell moved and Judge Haws seconded a motion that as of July 1, 2013, Magistrate Jurovich's salary be adjusted to conform to the formula that is used to determine the pay for the full-time circuit court magistrates. Further discussion was held; motion carried unanimously.

Also, in light of the recent changes that were made to the statutes that relate to full-time magistrates, Chief Justice Kite suggested that a committee of circuit court judges be formed to develop a policy and procedures to address vacancies, as they occur, in full-time magistrate positions.

Meeting was adjourned.

Approved by email on August 15, 2013

The Board of Judicial Policy and Administration's meetings are not open to the public unless the Board, in its discretion, determines that a particular meeting or agenda item should be open to the public. The Board will disclose what is discussed at the meetings at its discretion.