

DISTRICT JUDGES' CONFERENCE
April 26 and 27, 2007
Cody, Wyoming
Minutes

A meeting of the District Judges' Conference was held on April 26 and 27, 2007, in Cody and was attended by the following judges: First Judicial District: Judge Peter G. Arnold and Judge Nicholas G. Kalokathis; Second Judicial District: Judge Jeffrey A. Donnell and Judge Wade Waldrup; Third Judicial District: Judge Jere Ryckman and Judge Dennis Sanderson; Fourth Judicial District: Judge John Fenn; Fifth Judicial District: Judge Gary P. Hartman and Judge Steve Cranfill; Sixth Judicial District: Judge Dan R. Price and Judge John R. Perry; Seventh Judicial District: Judge W. Thomas Sullins, Judge Scott W. Skavdahl and David B. Park; Eighth Judicial District: Judge John Brooks; Ninth Judicial District: Judge Nancy Guthrie and Judge Norman Young.

Judge Perry chaired the meeting which began at 1:15 p.m. on April 25, 2007. The following occurred:

1. Parole Board. Mr. Pat Johnson, Executive Director of the Parole Board and Ms. Barb LeMaitre, Vice-Chairman of the Wyoming Parole Board addressed the conference. They provided a history of the Board of Parole and explained the function and process of the Board. In that regard, Mr. Johnson and Ms. LeMaitre provided materials explaining the organization of the Board. Furthermore, additional handouts were given to the conference explaining the good-time calculations and how those calculations related to parole eligibility. An annual report of the Board of Parole was also provided to the conference as well as statistics relating the granting of parole by the Board. There followed a question and answer period involving a variety of subjects and Mr. Johnson encouraged contact with the Parole Board in the event the conference had questions at a later date.

2. Casper Re-entry Program. Jim Peirro and Doc Schutz appeared before the conference to explain the Casper Re-entry Program. They also provided literature explaining the program. Casper Re-entry involves an adult community corrections center. There is also a residential substance abuse treatment that is part of the re-entry center. It was explained to the Conference that the Casper Re-entry Program is available when there has been a finding that a defendant needs inpatient treatment. Specifically, the program provides intensive residential treatment, case management and transitional services as an alternative sentencing option to offenders with substance abuse issues. Mr. Peirro and Mr. Schutz explained that if used appropriately, their program should

reduce overcrowding in jail, enhance treatment and reduce recidivism. There followed a question and answer period with the conference.

3. The Wyoming Children's Access Network. Ms. Cory Erickson of WyCAN appeared before the conference and explained her program. Ms. Erickson explained that the WyCAN program assists all parents to collaboratively resolve their family disputes through parent education and mediation. The purpose of WyCAN is to help divorced parents understand that they are both responsible for the children and that they must reduce their conflicts thus to minimize the effect on the their children. Ms. Erickson indicated that the parenting classes are available throughout the state if ordered by the Court.

4. Court Administration. Holly Hansen, Joann Stockdale, and Susan Dryer addressed the Conference. Holly Hansen provided a 2009-2010 budge timeline that the District Court's needed to be aware of and follow. Holly stated that there was significant Legislative interest regarding how the GAL program was working. She provided the Conference a letter that was sent to various legislators on October 31, 2006 regarding the GAL program. Ms. Hansen also provided the Conference with a continuing education calendar as well as an updated list of GALs. There followed a discussion regarding *Guardian Ad Litem* and GAL pay. Holly also said that the Drug Court Steering Committee is considering a restructure of drug court so as to make recommendations that would achieve uniformity regarding drug courts. Joann Stockdale advised the Conference as to the necessity for budget timeliness and that her office would be of assistance if needed in that regard. There was also a discussion about pay raises for Judicial Branch employees. Steve Dreher talked to the Conference about IT issues. There was a discussion relative to the need for a District Judge IT person or persons. It was concluded that a committee made of up Judges Skavdahl, Arnold, and Kautz that would discuss that issue and make recommendations to the Conference. There followed a discussion about wireless IT support.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened on April 25, 2007.

1. BJPA Committee. The Judges unanimously voted for Judge Donnell to have a second term on the BJPA.

2. CASEMAKER. There was a discussion regarding whether or not the District Judges wish to have their decision letters published by CASEMAKER. After a discussion, it was voted by a narrow 8 to 7 margin to publish decision letters using the federal supplement approach. That would allow a district judge to publish a decision letter of his or her choice so long as the judges are the "gate keeper" as to which decision letter would be published.

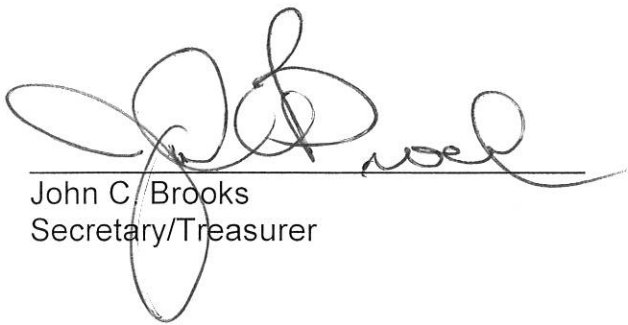
3. Proposed Rule on Taxation of Costs. A proposed rule on taxation of costs was distributed. After discussion, Judge Perry indicated that he would review the proposed rule again so as to model it after the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

4. Unauthorized Practice of Law. The Conference was shown a letter from the Committee for the Unauthorized Practice of Law which stated that an out of state attorney must associate with a Wyoming attorney before helping a client with even minor matters such as opening an ancillary probate or filing documents such as an affidavit of survivorship or distribution.

5. Legislative Discussion. Senator Ross, Senator Nicholas, Senator Coe, and Representative Jones addressed the Conference. There was a discussion regarding judicial retirement and that the Conference may need to find a different approach to be successful. Further, there was a discussion regarding judicial pay, juvenile justice, and the *Guardian Ad Litem* program. There was also a discussion regarding the failed court security legislation and discussion regarding IT personnel for the District Judges.

6. Summer Meeting. Judge Perry suggested the possibility of a summer meeting and indicated that he would contact the Conference about where, when, and how that meeting might take place.

With no further business, this meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The judges then traveled to Worland for a tour of the Wyoming Boy's School.



John C. Brooks
Secretary/Treasurer

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