

**MINUTES: September 2014 District Court Judge's Conference  
September 9, 2014**

The regular meeting of the District Judge's Conference was called to order on September 9, 2014. The meeting was held at the Little America Conference Center, Cheyenne, WY. Those in attendance included: Judges Brooks, Campbell, Cranfill, Day, Deegan, Donnell, Edelman, Fenn, Forgey, James, Lavery, Perry, Rogers, Rumpke, Sanderson, Sharpe, Skar, Tyler, Waldrip, Wilking, Young and retired Judge Price.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 2014 meeting. Motion was unanimously adopted.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report and assess annual dues of [REDACTED] for a retirement gift for Joanne Odendahl. Motion was unanimously adopted. (Attached)

A proposed Report to Joint Judiciary Interim Committee was provided to the members of the conference. A motion was made and seconded to approve the submission of the Report to Joint Judiciary Interim Committee as drafted. Motion was unanimously adopted.

Nominations and election of the following officers for the upcoming year were as follows:

Chair	Judge Cranfill
Vice-Chair	Judge Fenn
Treas/Sec	Judge Skar

Judge Wilking provided an update on the case management and rules committee. There was discussion regarding the appropriate safeguarding of data available from the implementation of the WyUser case management software. No further action was taken.

A presentation of the retirement gift for Court Administrator Joanne Odendahl was made by Judge Cranfill.

Judge Sharp provided information regarding evidenced based sentencing and that data has been presented by the Dept. of Corrections indicating that while the volume of crime and type of crime has remained fairly level, incarceration has increased dramatically over the past approximate one and half decades. He indicated that proposals for evidenced based sentencing may be forth coming.

The conference discussed the ethical limitations of responding to anticipated questionnaires from the League of Women Voters or similar requests. The conference took no formal action rather deferring any action subsequent to actual receipt of any such requests.

Joanne Odendahl and Kristi Racines provided an update on the Court Interpreter Program. A list of registered interpreters is maintained by the Wyoming Supreme Court and available on its website. Training continues throughout the state and it was requested that a local district court judge participate in the presentation if possible. Any special assistance for interpreters including budget issues may be directed to Kristi Racines.

Joanne Odendahl provided an update on staff salaries. Most of the increase is available to bring law clerk compensation in par with other state agencies. Real time court reporter pay increase is available.

Presentation of the Wyoming Cowboy Youth Challenge and Riverton Job Corps programs was provided.

Steve Corsi, director of DFS, made a presentation regarding the background of legislative considerations of FINS versus the current CHINS statutes. It was reported that DFS did not see a need for any statutory modifications. He discussed the ongoing need to increase foster care placement options and other local placement options over Residential and Psychological Placement where appropriate.

Chief Justice Burke addressed the conference with a general expression to encourage additional local community involvement of the judiciary where appropriate.

Judge Tyler advised the conference of the revisions to W.R.Cr.P. Rules 32, 39, 41 regarding advisement of appellate rights which became effective Sept. 1, 2014.

The conference was advised of the modification of U.R.D.C. Rule 107 clarifying the authority of the District Court regarding security in the Courtroom.

It was reported that the BJPA passed a resolution requiring district court judges participate in local courthouse security commissions.

Judge Cranfill reported on the International Bias Conference held at the Heart Mountain Center near Cody, WY.

It was moved and seconded that the Chair could set the spring meeting outside of April at his discretion. Winter meeting will be held in Casper on December 11-12, 2014. The Spring meeting will be held in Cody with final dates to be determined by the Chair.

Meeting was adjourned 4:30 pm September 9, 2014

Attachments:  
Agenda  
Treasurer's Report

## AGENDA

WSBA Meeting -- District Judges Conference

Monday, September 8, 2014 (eve cocktail party only)

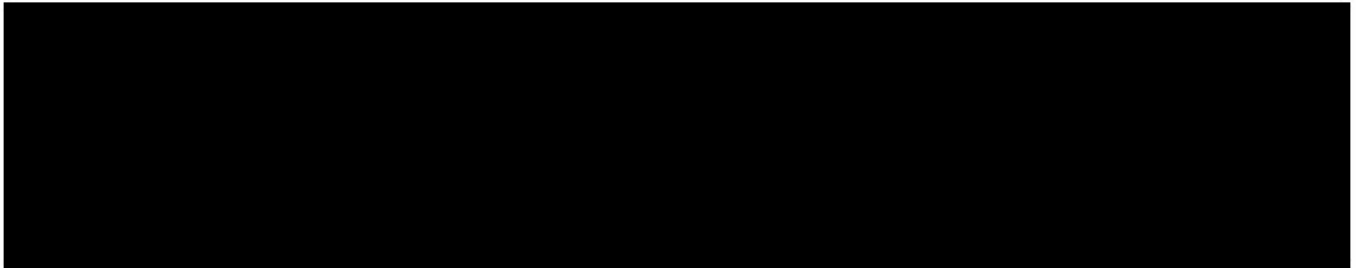
Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Cheyenne Room - Little America

Cheyenne, WY

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### Monday, September 8, 2014



### Tuesday, September 9, 2014

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Good of the Order* – Part 1 (Quorum?)

2:00 p.m. – 2:30p.m.

Update on Court Interpreters & General Briefing  
from Court Administrator

(Joann Odendahl & Staff)

*(Retirement Gift for Joann)*

2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Update ARNG Youth Challenge

New Job Corps Facility

*Update - Children's Justice Project (Judge Cranfill)*

*Discussion of URDC 107 – Court Security (Judge Donnell)*

(BJPA Minutes from March meeting indicate there was agreement the Conferences would take an official position on court security:

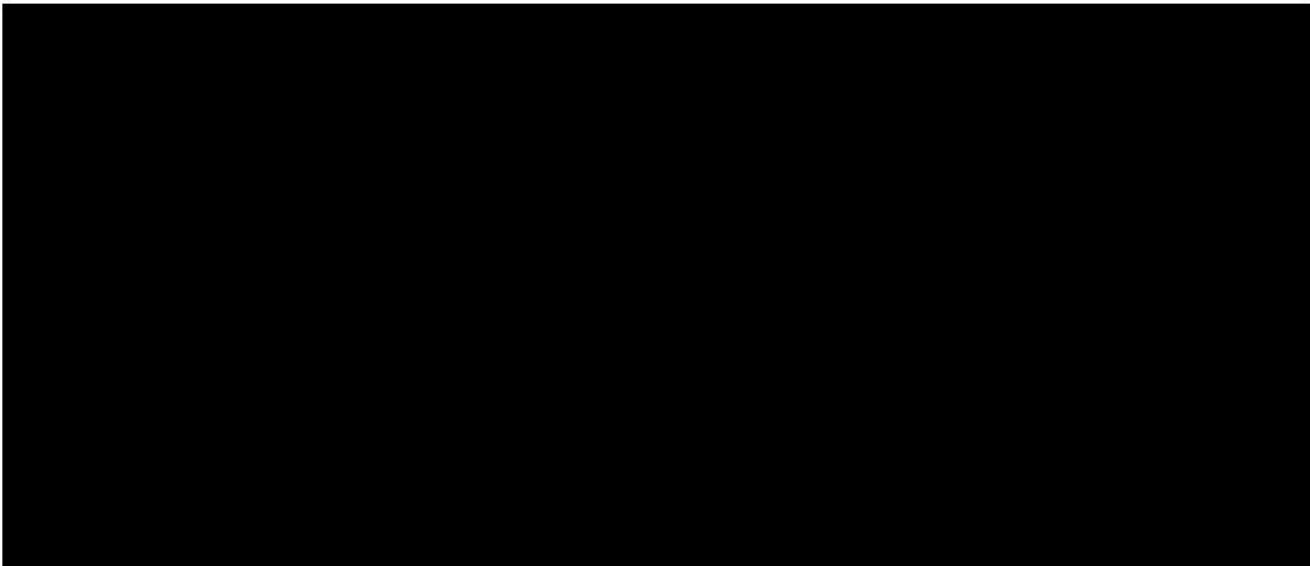
"It was agreed that both the District Court Conference and Circuit Court Conference will take an official position on this matter at their upcoming meetings. The conferences will also discuss signing resolutions supporting courthouse assessments and the court security grant applications.")

*Highlights of Cody International Bias Conference (Judge Cranfill)*

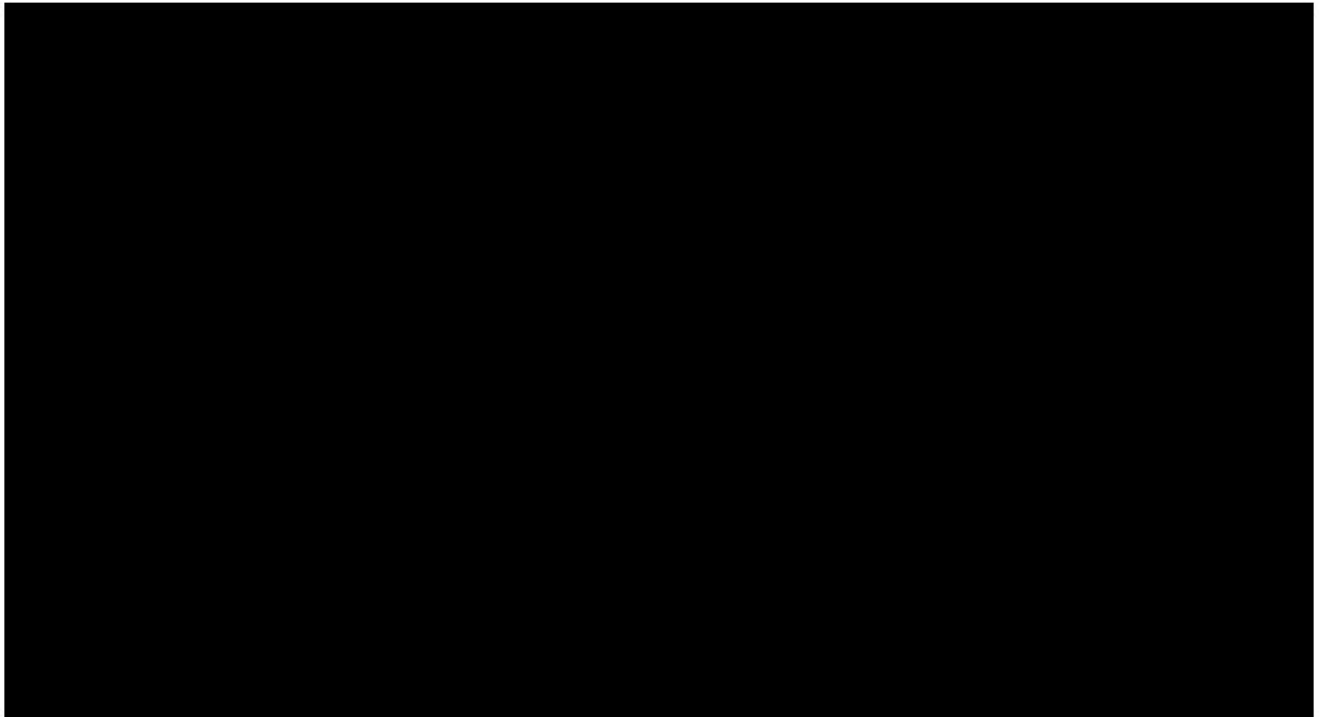
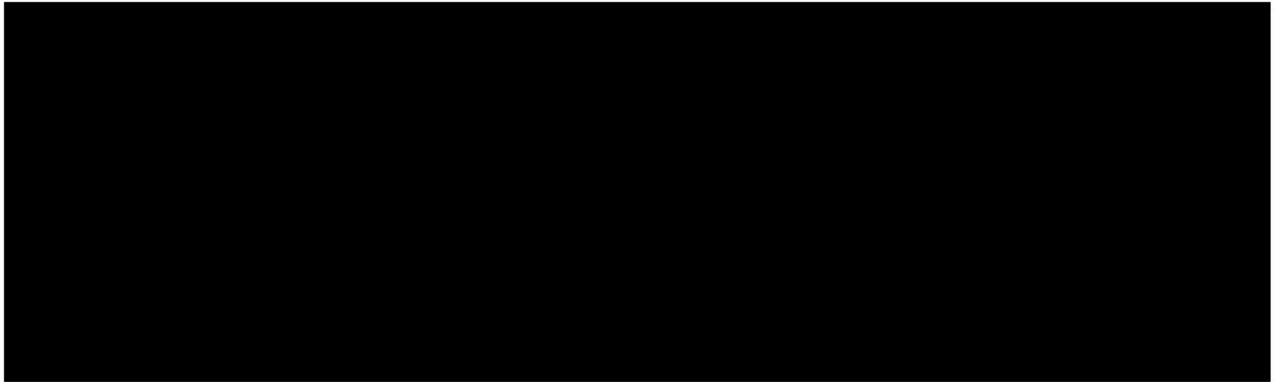
Addendum

*Accommodation*

The Wyoming State Bar has taken the lead in securing a preferential rate at Little America for the Annual Meeting, including the Judicial Council meeting.



**District Court Conference  
Treasurer's Report  
September 5, 2014**



## **REPORT TO JOINT JUDICIARY INTERIM COMMITTEE**

To: Members of the Joint Judiciary Interim Committee

From: District Judges Conference

Hon. Steven Cranfill, Chair

Re: Annual Report

Authority: W.S. § 5-3-102(b)

The conference shall coordinate improvement efforts with the judicial administrative conference and shall report to the joint judiciary interim committee of such efforts annually on or before November 1.

### Rule 103(c), Rules Governing the Organization of the District Judges Conference

The Chair shall prepare and submit an annual report to the Conference at the September meeting in a form suitable for submission to the State Joint Judiciary Interim Committee. Once approved by the Conference, the Chair shall submit said report to the Joint Judiciary Interim Committee on or before November 1 of each year.

Date: November 1, 2014

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Over the course of the past year, the Conference has undertaken or partnered in several initiatives to improve the administration of justice in our general trial courts. Of particular interest are the following.

#### 1. Internal Rules

The District Judges Conference this year undertook to meet the following requirements of W.S. § 5-3-102(b):

The conference shall adopt rules, which shall be binding on all the district judges, governing the administration of the district courts to

(a) The district courts have the inherent authority to ensure that adequate courtroom security measures are in place. Every district court, following consultation with the sheriff, the local county court security management committee, and other interested stakeholders, shall determine appropriate security measures needed to protect courtrooms and court personnel. In devising appropriate security measures, the Wyoming Court Security Commission's Court Security Standards shall be consulted. The court may conduct appropriate proceedings and enter appropriate orders to ensure that adequate security measures are in place.

(b) Wyo.Stat.Ann. § 18-3-604 requires the Sheriff "shall attend all courts of record in his county." In consultation with the presiding judge, the sheriff shall provide a sufficient number of deputies to maintain order in the courtroom at all times. The rules and orders of the court pertaining to conduct in the courtroom shall be enforced by him or them.

The District Courts, as the general trial courts of the State of Wyoming, are ever mindful of their responsibility to protect members of the public who are involved in or attending court proceedings, together with court staff. The Conference understands there is a careful balance between security and maintaining a sense of open court. The District Courts intend to take the initiative, given the dictates of Rule 107, in assuring security in our public courtrooms.

### 3. Expedited Marriage Dissolution Cases

In some of our busier districts, there has been a chronic challenge to quickly process marriage dissolution cases. At the recommendation of the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration, the Supreme Court recently adopted Temporary Rules for Expedited Marriage Dissolution Cases. A number of judicial districts will voluntarily participate in employing these rules as a temporary pilot project. The Conference is excited to see what we learn from this innovative approach. It includes special treatment of cases involving self-represented (*pro se*) parties.

### 4. Efficient Use of Judicial Resources

A National Guard Program

# Wyoming Cowboy Challenge Academy

*Courage To Change*

## WY District Court Judges

Ed Meyer, Director  
9 September 2014

844-WYO-WCCA / 307-438-7890  
www.wyomingcowboychallenge.com  
Facebook: www.facebook.com/WYCCA

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## Why NGYCP / WCCA?

- ♦ Wyo = 1.2K HS drop-outs Annually (8-yr Avg)
- ♦ HS Graduation Rate dipped to 9-year low (78.9%), 2012-2013
- ♦ \$558 Million in Lost Wages, Productivity, Tax dollar revenues
- ♦ Wyoming HS graduate earns \$4,861 more annually than a HS dropout (\$159M wages)

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## What is the WCCA?

- ♦ A safe, disciplined and professional learning environment that empowers at-risk teens through training and education, during a 22-week in-resident phase, followed by a year of post-residential mentoring for guidance and stability.



24/7, 355 days per year, In-Resident HS

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## Program Basics

- ♦ Who: Males/Females, 16-18 years old, Volunteers withdrawn from HS or seriously thinking about it
- ♦ What: Eight Core Components & Cowboy Ethics
- ♦ Where: Camp Guernsey Campus and Home
- ♦ When: Four Classes per Year (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)
- ♦ Why: Cadets with the values, life skills, education and employment potential to be responsible and productive Wyoming citizens
- ♦ How: Hands-off, Respect/Dignity, Accountable
- ♦ Duration: 17.5 Months Residential/Post-Residential

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## 8 Core Components

- ♦ Leadership / Followership
- ♦ Service to Community
- ♦ Job Skills
- ♦ Academic Excellence
- ♦ Responsible Citizenship
- ♦ Life-Coping Skills
- ♦ Health & Hygiene
- ♦ Physical Fitness




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## Values Training


### Cowboy Ethics ©

- ♦ Live Each Day with Courage
- ♦ Take Pride in your Work
- ♦ Always Finish what you Start
- ♦ Do What has to be Done
- ♦ Be Tough, but Fair
- ♦ When you Make a Promise, Keep it
- ♦ Ride for the Brand
- ♦ Talk Less and Say More
- ♦ Remember that Some Things aren't For Sale
- ♦ Know Where to Draw the Line



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## WCCA Academics

- ◆ 2 x Educational Options
  - ◆ 1) HS Equivalency Certificate (HSEC)
  - ◆ 2) HS Credit Recovery
    - ◆ Apex Accredited Online Curriculum (12/Class)
    - ◆ K<sup>12</sup> Inc., (aka WYVA) Online Curriculum
    - ◆ Dual Enrollment / Out-of-District Registration
- ◆ 4 x PTSTB Certified Instructors, 3 x MS/MA
- ◆ Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE)
- ◆ 4 x 90-minute Class periods per Day


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## Apex in Wyoming

- ◆ Campbell County (CC)
- ◆ Carbon County #1 (Rawlins)
- ◆ Carbon County #2 (HEM)
- ◆ Converse County #1 (Douglas)
- ◆ Crook County #1 (BL)
- ◆ Fremont County BOCES
- ◆ Fremont County #1 & #2 (LV, PF; Dubois; St Stephens)
- ◆ Goshen County (Torrington)
- ◆ Hot Springs County #1
- ◆ Johnson Cnty #1 (Buffalo)
- ◆ Lincoln County #2 (SC)
- ◆ Laramie County #1 (South)
- ◆ Natrona County #1
- ◆ Niobrara County #1 (WyVA)
- ◆ Park County #6 (Cody)
- ◆ Platte County #2 (GS)
- ◆ Sublette County #9 (BP)
- ◆ Sweetwater County #1 (RS)
- ◆ Uinta County #1 (Evanston)


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## Additional Considerations

- ◆ No Cost (\$0 tuition/fees) to youth/family
  - ◆ Packing/Arrival List = ~\$250
- ◆ WCCA is Funded by Federal & Wyoming State Governments
- ◆ No WDE or School District funds used
- ◆ No DOC funds used
- ◆ Value per Youth: ~\$28K HS Scholarship
- ◆ What's best for the youth/student?


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## What the Program is not...

- ◆ Military Boot Camp/Basic Training
- ◆ Traditional or Alternative High School
- ◆ Alcohol or Drug Treatment Facility
- ◆ Physical or Mental Health Clinic
- ◆ Cowboy / Ranch Hand Training Program

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## Take - Aways / Questions



- ◆ Train-Educate-Mentor at-risk 16-18 years old
- ◆ 5.5 Months Safe / Disciplined learning environment
- ◆ Education-Respect-Discipline
- ◆ HSEC & Diploma are both keys to life's next opportunity
- ◆ No cost to youth/families; what's best for the student?

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## Wyo HS (Gr 9-12) Dropout Data

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	8 yr Avg
#1 County	Wash	Lincoln	Natrona	Natrona	Laramie	Laramie	Sublette	Natrona	
#	432	351	286	176	305	261	144	327	272
#2 County	Laramie	Lincoln	Lincoln	Laramie	Natrona	Natrona	Laramie	Lincoln	
#	327	281	223	183	244	190	180	237	213
#3 County	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	
#	221	193	154	119	153	123	123	144	153
#4 County	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	
#	211	176	142	109	141	109	109	141	142
#5 County	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	Converse	
#	188	144	102	81	104	81	81	104	104
Top 5 Total	1,379	1,065	875	588	952	764	637	843	846
Total	1,445	1,102	928	610	1,013	793	717	940	1,014