District Judges' Conference September 14, 2004 Gillette, Wyoming

MINUTES

The September meeting of the Wyoming District Judges' Conference was held at the Cam-Plex in Gillette, Wyoming on September 14, 2004. Present for the meeting or portions thereof were Judges Patrick, Hartman, Price, James, Ryckman, Brooks, Donnell, Kautz, Sanderson, Brackley, Skavdahl, Waldrip, Park, Sullins, Perry and Burke.

The first presentation was a discussion by Mr. Pat Anderson, Executive Director of the Wyoming Board of Parole, and Ms. Michelle Daigle, Board Member. Ms. Daigle and Mr. Anderson described and overall view of the structure and make-up of the Board; they discussed parole procedure and the procedures relating to commutation. Mr. Anderson discussed parole eligibility and "good time" rules enacted by Governor Freudenthal. The presentations were well received and several questions were presented and answered.

Minutes of the April 24, 2004 meeting were read and approved on unanimous motion.

Judge Park presented the Treasurer's Report. He reported that the conference account had a current balance of

Judge Donnell summarized a recent meeting of the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration, with emphasis on the judicial retirement legislation, and enactment of the judicial pay raise.

Judges Price and Ryckman discussed Judicial Conduct and Ethics, and noted that the majority of complaints considered concerned delay in decisions and rudeness to attorneys and/or litigants.

Judge Kautz noted that there was little activity by the Permanent Appellate Rules Advisory Committee; Judge Donnell said the same applied to the Evidence Committee and Judge Price said it also applied to the Civil Rules Committee. Several members suggested that the Civil Rules Committee consider Rule 6(c)(2) that requires that a motion not determined within 90 days be deemed denied. Many judges noted that their dockets are so crowded that setting a motion within 90 days presents problems. Judge Park presented one amendment to the Criminal Rules that had been adopted by the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration concerning alternate jurors; he also noted that a proposal to amend Rule 32 to restrict withdrawal of guilty pleas had been rejected by the Board.

Judge Sullins reported that Judge Grant had indicated to him that there was nothing to present from the Bench-Bar Relations Committee, and Judge Sullins also noted that the time for presenting supplemental budgets had passed.

Judges Donnell and Hartman briefly discussed proposed legislation concerning the method of paying Guardians Ad Litem.

There being no further business to come before the Conference, the meeting was adjourned.

David B. Park District Judge