

Purpose and Structure of the Access to Justice Commission

Section 1. Purpose.

The Access to Justice Commission was established by Court order on December 16, 2008, with a mission to promote fair and equal access to civil justice in Wyoming. The Commission became a standing committee of the Wyoming Judicial Council in 2023. As such, the Commission's purpose is to assist the Wyoming Judicial Council in furthering access to justice initiatives identified in the Wyoming Judicial Branch strategic plan.

Section 2. Commission Membership, Meetings, and Voting.

1. Membership. The Access to Justice Commission membership shall be members of the Wyoming State Bar or Wyoming Residents with a demonstrated interest in access to justice. Membership will include the Chief Justice or designee; one district court judge as recommended by the District Court Conference; one circuit court judge as recommended by the Circuit Court Conference; two members of the Wyoming State Bar recommended by the President of the Wyoming State Bar; one representative of the University of Wyoming, College of Law, recommended by the Dean of the College of Law; one clerk of district court as recommended by the President of the Clerk of District Courts' Association, and one circuit court chief clerk as recommended by the President of the Wyoming Association of Circuit Court Clerks; one state senator and one state representative from the Wyoming Legislature recommended, respectively, by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House; the Wyoming Attorney General or designee; and one Member at Large, selected by the Commission Chair as needed based on expertise necessary to accomplish the Access to Justice Commission's mission.
 - a. Membership terms will be three years.
 - b. Members may serve successive terms, with the approval of any party authorized to designate or recommend such member.
 - c. An Order of the Wyoming Supreme Court making such appointments and reappointments and listing all Commission members shall be published by January 1 each year.
 - d. Officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting.
2. Meetings. The Commission will meet twice a year, and more often as the Chair may determine. The first regular meeting of each calendar year will be the Annual Meeting.

- a. The Commission may complete its work through ad hoc committees staffed by Commission members and non-member stakeholders with particularized expertise.

Section 3. Roles and Responsibilities.

1. The Executive Secretary will be responsible for:
 - a. The Executive Secretary will prepare and keep the minutes of all meetings. The Chair's Judicial Assistant or the State Court Administrator will serve as the executive secretary.
2. The Commission members will be responsible for:
 - a. The Commission Chair shall be the Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court or his or her designee. The Chair will be the principal officer and spokesperson of the Commission, will preside at all Commission meetings, and will carry out all other duties as the Commission may authorize or assign; and.
 - b. The Vice Chair will perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chair when the Chair is absent or unable to act and will fulfill other duties as the Commission may authorized or assign.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2024.

BY THE WYOMING JUDICIAL COUNCIL:

Kate M. Fox

Kate M. Fox, Chief Justice
Chair, Wyoming Judicial Council