

Wyoming District Judges Conference

Business Meeting

September 17, 2025

The Fall 2025 meeting of the District Judges Conference took place on September 17, 2025, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Laramie, Wyoming. The meeting was held both in person and via video conference. Present at the meeting were Judges Dan Forgey, Dawnessa Snyder, Jason Conder, Kate McKay, James Kaste, Joe Bluemel, Ed Buchanan, Richard Lavery, Bobbi Overfield, Ben Kirvin, Josh Eames, Misha Westby, James Michael Causey, Scott Peasley, Nate Hibben, Matthew Castano, Suzannah Robinson, Melissa Owens, Robin Cooley, and Michael McGrady. Judge Phillips participated via video. Absent were Judges William Simpson, Catherine Wilking, Kerri Johnson, Catherine Rogers, Stu Healy, and Peter Froelicher.

Chairman Bluemel called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

The minutes from the business meeting on April 24, 2025, were presented, reviewed, corrected, and accepted. The Treasurer's Report from September 17, 2025, was also presented, reviewed, and accepted. The agenda was approved as presented.

Old Business

1. Judge Bluemel presented from the Wyoming Judicial Council meeting held September 15, 2025
 - a. Add Chancery Court to WJC did not pass
 - b. Budget Priorities established

- c. Court Security Budget Request passed to pursue legislative appropriations
- d. ADA Policy update passed
- e. Operational Plan presented
- f. Executive Committee reported
- g. Discussed needs for volunteers for oral arguments
- h. Discussed the current issue of what the WJC policy should be on what rule changes must be approved by the WJC vs. the WSC.
- i. Emphasized the importance of communications between committee representatives & conference
- j. Court Navigator Program & Expansion
- k. HR Committee (Froelicher & Robinson)
 - i. FMLA Amendment to the Guide for Judicial Branch Employment & How that will or will not apply to Court Reporters and Law Clerks
- l. E-filing & Tech Committees (Eames/McKay)
 - i. Interpreters

New Business

- 1. Approval of Report to Joint Judiciary Interim Committee
 - a. The conference voted to approve the report and Judge Snyder will get it sent to LSO and JJC chairs
- 2. District Court Workload Study was presented by Elisa Butler & Claire Smith
 - a. The conference voted against a workload study at this time
- 3. Judicial Conduct & Ethics (Forgey/Peasley)
 - a. Judge Forgey and Peasley discussed proposed code/rule changes
- 4. Judicial Survey update
 - a. Discussion about possible changes to Judicial Nominating Committee Rules
- 5. Legislature & Joint Judiciary Committee
 - a. Discussed always having at least one District Judge at committee meetings

6. Chancery Court
 - a. Discussed possible future rule changes, including the use of court Reporter/Recording
7. Discussed prosecutor's objections to pretrial disclosure of witnesses & exhibits
8. The conference updated committee assignments
9. Judicial Orientation
 - a. Judge McKay reported on the updated plan for judicial orientation
10. Election of Officers as voted on by the conference:
 - i. Judge Snyder – President
 - ii. Judge Peasley – Vice President
 - iii. Judge Overfield – Secretary/Treasurer

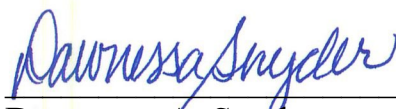
For the Good of the Order

The Winter meeting will be held December 11-12, 2025, in Casper, Wyoming.

Adjournment

Judge Overfield then moved to adjourn the meeting. Judge Buchanan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by members present.

Submitted this 17th day of September 2025.



Dawnessa A. Snyder
Secretary/Treasurer