

Jeffrey A. Donnell

From: Judge Price [drp@courts.state.wy.us]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2003 9:28 AM
To: Judge Brackley; Judge Brooks; Judge Burke; Judge Donnell; Judge Grant; Judge Guthrie; Judge Hartman; Judge James; Judge Kalokathis; Judge Kautz; Judge Park; Judge Patrick; Judge Perry; Judge Ryckman; Judge Sanderson; Judge Stebner; Judge Sullins; Judge Young; Judge Price
Subject: JudicialMinutes.wpd



JudicialMinutes.wpd

*Jim - file
put this in the file on the DJ's
meeting in Jackson. Put a copy in
my Treasurer/Sec. file for the Conference*

Here are the minutes, if you can open them. Also, here they are:

MINUTES OF MEETING: APRIL 25 & 26, 2003 - JACKSON, WYOMING

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE - DISTRICT JUDGES DIVISION

The Spring meeting of the Wyoming Judicial Conference - District Judges Division was held in Jackson, Wyoming beginning April 25, 2003. The meeting was attended by Nancy Guthrie, Norm Young, Ken Stebner, Jere Ryckman, Tom Sullins, Gary Hartman, Nena James, Dennis Sanderson and Dan Price.

Training and continuing legal education sessions were presented:

1. Lisa Skiles Parody and Jim Palmer on the Addicted Offender Accountability Act.
2. Kevin Podd on Lexis-Nexis.
3. Jan Friedlund on the Jackson Juvenile Justice Restoration Program.
4. Nancy Guthrie on house hunting skills on a judge's budget in Jackson

The meeting resumed on April 26, 2003. The minutes of the last meeting that were circulated were approved by motion of Dennis Sanderson, seconded by Gary Hartman and unanimously voice vote.

The need to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration (BJPA) was the next item on the agenda. After much discussion and numerous declining those present, Dan Price offered to take the position unless, after discussions with John Perry, John would take the position. All present agreed unanimously that either would be appropriate for the vacancy.

NOTE: After the meeting, in Gillette, pursuant to a sanctioned, valid, Sixth Judicial District session of Rock, Paper, Scissors, John Perry was determined to be the new BJPA district judges' representative.

Nancy Guthrie announced that she needed to make three appointments of delegates to the ABA Judicial Division. It was pointed out that normally the president of the district judges is one of the delegates, the first vacancy was filled. After another session of not me, Nancy Guthrie appointed Dave Park and John Brackley as the other two delegates. NOTE: After the meeting, Nancy Guthrie informed Dan Price that she had appointed him rather than one of the other persons announced at the meeting. She declined to inform Dan Price of which one he replaced.

Nancy Guthrie next brought up the issue of possible staff salary raises as brought to her by Joann Stockdale:

Dear Judge Guthrie,

Since you are currently President of the District Judges organization I am writing to you in hopes that you will discuss a matter of pay increases with the other District Court Judges.

The situation is this: It will have been 2 years in July 2003 since our employees received a pay increase and Legislature did not fund the supplemental request of \$492,000 for pay increases for staff employees of the Judicial Branch again this year. Legislature did however provide \$125,004 in the 2003 Supplemental Budget Request, which obviously, won't go very far.

In review of the payroll budgets of the district courts it is estimated that if the following pay increases were given, most of the budgets would be able to absorb the additional expense. Some of the district budgets have experienced a major increase in transcription fees and would need to have assistance from the \$125,004. Funds would be transferred accordingly.

COURT REPORTERS: As you know, the Court Reporters must all be paid the same. Currently the Court Reporters base salary is \$42,500. As you can see by the attachment, once you add the transcript fees their gross wages range from \$50,222 to \$78,431. According to the "Western Region State Courts Salary Survey FY 2003", an average base salary is \$44,500.

JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS: Currently the Judicial Assistant's have a maximum salary of \$36,037. The "Western Region State Courts Salary Survey FY 2003" is indicating an average salary of \$42,900, which would be a drain on most of the district court budgets. At this time I would suggest a 5% increase to \$37,839 to keep in line with the same % increase for the court reporters. Then, if the judges want to increase the salary to \$42,900 they could address that issue in the next biennium budget request.

LAW CLERKS: The Law Clerks currently have a maximum salary of \$38,979. The survey is showing a minimum average salary of \$38,370 to a maximum average of \$42,900. Again in staying with the suggested 5% increase the salary could be increased to \$40,928, and then address the additional increase to \$42,900 in the next budget request.

I hope all of this makes sense. I would be more than happy to discuss this with you or any one that you choose.

Please let me know by May 15 if the District Judges want me to proceed with these pay adjustments. The adjustments would go into effect on July 1, 2003.

Ken Stebner moved and Gary Hartman seconded that these increases for the judicial assistants and law clerks go into effect, unless an individual judge elects not to have the raise effective for a particular employee. The motion unanimously carried. Any judge electing to not have the raise go into effect for a particular employee would need to notify Joann Stockdale in the next two weeks. Dan Price and Nancy Guthrie would notify the absent judges of this information.

Nancy Guthrie announced the next two meetings of the district judges:

1. September 9 - 12, 2003 in conjunction with the Wyoming State Bar Convention.
2. April 23, 2004 at a location to be determined by the next president.

Gary Hartman made a presentation on various programs from other states, Iowa, Mississippi, and Kentucky, involving the flexibility of judicial resources using retired judges who commit to service. The idea, generally, is to have retired judges commit to serve about half of a year but receive a full salary. The possible advantages and disadvantages of these types of plans were discussed. No action was taken.

Further continuing judicial education was presented as follows:

1. Donna Sheen, DFS attorney made a presentation.
2. Dennis Sanderson gave a presentation and gave everyone a case notebook on the subject of criminal contempt of court. Much discussion also was presented on the subject of civil contempt of court.

Other general BS business and discussion was held by and between the attending judges and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan R. Price II
Acting secretary for the meeting

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