

Wyoming District Judges Conference

Business Meeting

September 11, 2024

The Fall 2024 meeting of the District Judges Conference was held on September 11, 2024, at Little America in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The meeting occurred in person. Present in person at the meeting were Judges Catherine Rogers, Misha Westby, Rick Lavery, Dawnessa Snyder, Jason Conder, Kate McKay, Joe Bluemel, Ed Buchanan, Scott Peasley, Peter Froelicher, Kerri Johnson, Bobbi Overfield, Darci Phillips, Catherine Wilking, Stu Healy, Ben Kirvin, Melissa Owens, Robin Cooley, James Kaste, Michael Causey, Steve Sharpe, Suzannah Robinson, Michael McGrady, and Josh Eames. Judge Simpson joined us by video. Absent was Judge Dan Forgey.

Chairman Rogers called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The April 25, 2024, business meeting minutes were presented, reviewed, and accepted. The Treasurer's September 11, 2024 Report was presented, reviewed, and accepted.

Old Business

1. Nomination and Election of Officers: Judge Castano nominated Judge Bluemel as Chair, Judge Peasley as Vice Chair, and Judge Snyder as Secretary/Treasurer. Judge Causey seconded. The motion passed.
2. File & Serve Express/FCE: Judge Snyder will set up a brown bag lunch among the judges to discuss the consistency of the judges' use of FSX. There was also a discussion that additional training is needed across the board on the system and its overall problems.

New Business

1. Judge Peasley moved, and Judge Kaste seconded, the adoption of the core values statement. Motion passed.

Core Value Statement for the Conference

To better serve the citizens of Wyoming:

The District Court Conference is a group of unified but independent judges who support and hold each other accountable and coordinate with the entire judicial branch.

The authority of the district courts is derived from Article 5, Section 1 of the Wyoming Constitution. Independent district courts are fundamental to maintaining the integrity, fairness, and effectiveness of the legal system. The Conference is committed to preserving the constitutional and statutory judicial independence of the district courts in substantive, procedural, and appropriate administrative matters.

The Conference is committed to the Wyoming Judicial Council, and our representatives seek to be constructive participants in the Council.

We are committed to ensuring access to justice, effective operation of the branch, and promoting public trust and accountability.

2. September 9, 2024 Facilitated Discussion: how to move forward. Judge Condor asked the officers to share all feedback with the entire conference.
3. 2023/2024 Report to the Legislature: Judge Kaste moved to approve, and Judge Westby Seconded. Passed. It will also include a statement about judges' local civic activities (amendment moved by Judge Cooley and seconded by Judge Overfield)

4. Legal Deserts Conference – Judge Peasley reported about efforts to promote rural attorney problems. Judge Peasley, Judge Buchanan, and Judge Stipe will be presenting at the law school to encourage them to consider rural practice.
5. The conference agreed to use ClayHR to report hours/leave for staff attorneys and judicial assistants.
6. Judge Bluemel will work with the AOC Administrator to respond to inquiries specific to our conference.
7. Future Weighted Workload Study: We would like more information about how it would be conducted.
8. Committee Updates
 - a. Wyoming Judicial Council Update – Judges Rogers/Bluemel/Snyder
 - b. Legislative Liaison Committee – Judge Peasley
 - c. WJC Legislative Relations Committee – Judges Conder, Phillips
 - d. Court Reporter Committee – Judge Overfield
 - e. Docket Review Committee – Judge Rogers
9. Committee Assignments – we need some work on this

For the Good of the Order

Winter meeting will meet on December 13, 2024 in Casper

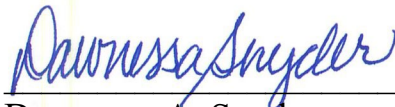
Legislative Breakfast 2025: Wednesday, January 15, 2025, Spring meeting will meet April 24-25, 2025, in Sheridan

Fall meeting will meet September 16-17, 2025, in conjunction with the Wyoming State Bar convention.

Adjournment

Judge Froelicher then moved to adjourn the meeting, Judge Eames seconded the motion and members present unanimously approved the motion.

Submitted this 11th day of September 2024.



Dawnessa A. Snyder
Secretary/Treasurer