

Minutes
Conference Call, July 19, 2005, 7:30
Board of Judicial Policy and Administration

The Board of Judicial Policy and Administration met by conference call on July 19, 2005. Chief Justice William Hill, Justice Marilyn Kite, Justice Michael Golden, Judge Jeff Donnell, Judge John Brooks, Judge Mike Huber, Judge Terry Tharp, and Judge Bob Skar attended. Holly Hansen, Joann Stockdale, and Ronda Munger also attended. Judge Tim Day also attended for a period of time at the beginning of the call.

Holly Hansen updated the Board on the progress of the Guardian Ad Litem reimbursement program. Ninety-two attorneys attended the training in Casper on June 28th and 29th. A list of GAL training qualified attorneys was sent to the district judges on Friday July 17th. At this time, twenty-one counties have or are intending to sign an MOU under the reimbursement program. There is some speculation that the caseload will increase and cost overruns may be a problem, however, the expenditures will be monitored carefully to guard against that possibility.

Joann Stockdale provided the Board a copy of proposed circuit court accounting system rules. She explained that when the Legislature transferred the auditing responsibility of the circuit courts to the Supreme Court, the State Department of Audit's rules on accounting no longer applied. The draft rules substantially follow the form and content of the State Department of Audit's rules. The Board unanimously approved the adoption of the Accounting System Rules of Circuit Courts.

Judge Tim Day made a presentation to the Board on the Center For Resolution. The Center For Resolution is an organization comprised of volunteers who facilitate resolution to conflict without the court's involvement. The Center has been working with Judge Day, in his court in Jackson, but they would like to expand the program to the Lander area and that is creating some funding issues. The Center would like the Judiciary's help with some of the training expenses incurred when training the volunteers to do the mediation. Specifically, the Wyoming Center for Resolution would like funding to be provided by the Supreme Court that would send 3-5 individuals to mediation training, one of which would be a Spanish speaking individual. The cost of the training is \$750 for each registration, meaning approximately \$3,750. Currently, Judge Day receives some discretionary money from Teton County and he has been giving that money to the Center for training purposes. Judge Day explained that the Teton County participants seem to be happy with the process, and he believes it is a worthy program. The Board discussed the matter and concluded that input from Judge Roberts was necessary, so no action was taken.

Judge Jeff Donnell and Judge John Perry updated the Board on the recommendations that the district judges offered with regard to Rodger McDaniel's report on the Role of the Courts and the Children and Families Initiative (CFI). Several district judges attended the joint judiciary meetings and provided testimony to the Committee regarding changes proposed by the CFI. The broad sweeping statutory changes necessary to effectuate the change recommended by the CFI are overwhelming. Judge Perry

reported that he believed no less than seven titles in the statutes would require some changes - some titles would require extensive changes. The Board discussed the matter and decided to adopt a "one voice response." Justice Kite moved and Judge Perry seconded a motion that Judge Donnell, on behalf of the District Judges Conference, would write a letter expressing the concerns of the judges with regard to the sweeping changes recommended by the CFI, and then the Board will respond to Rodger McDaniel and the Joint Judiciary. Motion carried unanimously.

Judge Huber reported on his discussion with Judge Park regarding the creation of the Juvenile section the permanent rules committee. Judge Park sent a letter to the Chief Justice with a list of the individuals who have agreed to serve on the committee. Judge Huber reported that the committee is well balanced and appears to be in order. Justice Kite moved and Judge Perry seconded a motion to appoint a Juvenile Division of the Permanent Rules Committee detailed in Judge Park's letter. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Adjourned 8:22 a.m.