

Minutes  
Conference Call of August 14, 2001, 7:30 am  
Board of Judicial Policy and Administration

The Board of Judicial Policy and Administration met by conference call on August 14, 2001. Chief Justice Lehman, Justice Bart Voigt, Judge Wade Waldrip, Judge Frank Zebre, and Judge Scott Cole attended. Justice Bill Hill, Judge Jeff Donnell, and Judge Rob Denhardt were absent. Holly Hansen and Linda Burke also attended. Rick Lewis, Executive Director of the Wyoming State Bar, and Judge Gary Hartman participated in the first part of the call.

Rick Lewis, Executive Director of the Wyoming State Bar, provided an overview of the Licensing Fees and Lawyer Referral Rules proposed by the Wyoming State Bar. He explained that the Bar had taken comments from members of the Bar and discussed these items at the Bar Commissioners' meeting in Saratoga on August 10 and 11, 2001. Most Bar members thought the licensing fee increases were far overdue and appropriate. The Bar Commissioners made a couple minor changes and clarified the language in the Lawyer Referral Service proposal. Lewis referred to the requested effective date of September 1, 2001 as being important to get their statements printed and mailed out in a timely manner and to keep the Bar current for their fiscal year. After a brief discussion, Judge Grant moved and Justice Voigt seconded motions to adopt both the Licensing Fee and the Lawyer Referral Service proposals. The motions carried unanimously. Justice Lehman offered to have the Orders prepared in proper form for filing and publication.

Judge Gary Hartman then presented the Board with an update about the Judicial Salary sub-committee's work. Contacts have been made with the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, the County Commissioners' Association, and the Wyoming State Bar. Debbie Nagel-Smith is working on getting the sub-committee on the WACO agenda. Judge Hartman is expecting a resolution from the Wyoming State Bar. The Judicial Salary sub-committee will design a list and timetable for judges to contact legislators. Judge Hartman reported that he would not be available to attend the Board's September meeting, but that representatives from the salary sub-committee would report. Finally, after a brief discussion of the discrepancy between percentage increases for the supreme, district, and circuit courts, the Board agreed to put that item on its September agenda.

The Board considered the language drafted by Judges Donnell, Kautz, and Zebre concerning a general vehicle policy. Two problem areas identified by the Board were: (1) specifying that the state car will only be used for actions necessary for the performance of official duties; and (2) the need for the car being reviewed on a biennial basis. Holly Hansen will draft the changes and distribute to the Board members for approval. The Board also agreed that the state car ordered for Judge Skar could be delivered to him before the general policy is adopted. Then the two cars already existing before the adoption of the general policy, i.e. the cars being used by Judges Zebre and Skar, will be subject to the biennial review in the general policy.

The Board tabled the discussion of the reconsideration of Board issues and an amendment to Rule 11 of the BJPA Rules and Procedures until the September meeting.

Holly Hansen next updated the board on the Highway Administration grant that will provide approximately \$770,000 to be used to initiate electronic transmission of commercial driving records to Motor Vehicle records. Because there are more funds available, the Board approved applying for such funds to obtain TI connections in the courts where they are not presently available and for further judicial education.

Chief Justice Lehman updated the Board on the Justice of the Peace counties and advised that Teton County is now the only county that has not made the decision to join the circuit court system.

The Chief further asked the Board to consider the Order proposed by the Wyoming State Bar to appoint a select committee to review disciplinary functions. Judge Grant moved and Justice Voigt seconded a motion to approve the Order. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board then discussed the possibility of giving CJE credit for attendance at The New Judicial College at Thunderhead Ranch. Based on the lack of information about the content of the program, Judge Grant moved and Justice Voigt seconded a motion to deny CJE credit for this program. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board then met in an executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Judge Grant asked for guidance from the Board concerning pressure from the County Commissioners and the District Clerk to institute payment for services, which have previously been provided at no cost, i.e. an access fee to the District Clerk's filing system. The Board agreed to consider Judge Grant's concerns at their meeting in September.

The Board adjourned the conference call at 8:45 am.