

# Board of Judicial Policy and Administration

## MINUTES

Supreme Court Building, Room 237  
Cheyenne, Wyoming  
August 14, 2017  
9:00 A.M. – Noon

### Members Present

Chief Justice Jim Burke, Chair  
Justice Kate Fox  
Justice Keith Kautz  
Judge Catherine Rogers  
Judge Curt Haws\*  
Judge Bob Castor\*  
Judge Wes Roberts\*

### Members Not Present

Judge John Perry  
Judge John Fenn

### Other Judiciary Members

#### Present

Justice Mike Davis  
Judge Tom Campbell  
Judge Brian Christensen, Circuit Court Conference President\*

### Judicial Staff Present

Patty Bennett, Clerk of the Supreme Court, Ronda Munger, Deputy State Court Administrator, Elisa Butler, Staff Attorney, Julie Goyen, Chief Information Officer, Tricia Gasner, Business Applications Manager, Heather Kenworthy, Business Analyst, Angie Dorsch, Executive Director of Equal Justice Wyoming, Eydie Trautwein, Director of Legal Resources and Judicial Education, Kristi Racines, Chief Fiscal Officer, Cierra Hipszky, Administrative Assistant and Lily Sharpe, State Court Administrator

*\* Designates individuals present by video*

<b>Welcome</b>	Chief Justice Burke welcomed the Board members and others present.
<b>BJPA Vacancy</b>	1. New BJPA Member – Judge Skar

	<p>A. Judge Catherine R. Rogers</p> <p>Chief Justice Burke welcomed Judge Catherine Rogers as the newest member of the Board and presented a written introduction from Judge Skar: “We have the utmost faith in her ability to represent the District Judges’ positions at the BJPA meetings taking place during her term.”</p>
<b>New Judicial Appointments</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eighth Judicial District: F. Scott Peasley               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Judge Brooks retired August 4, 2017</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Fifth Judicial District: William L. Simpson               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Judge Cranfill retired July 31, 2017</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Second Judicial District: Dawnessa Snyder               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Judge Waldrip retired July 7, 2017</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Chief Justice Burke reminded the Board about the upcoming robing ceremonies. Judge Snyder’s robing ceremony will be held on August 30, 2017, Judge Peasley’s robing ceremony will be held on August 24, 2017 and Judge Simpson’s robing ceremony will be held on September 6, 2017. The Chief encouraged the members to attend these ceremonies if individual schedules allowed.</p>
<b>Laramie County District Court</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update – Judge Campbell               <p>Judge Campbell recounted he wrote a letter to the BJPA in June 2017 about the plans to renovate the Laramie County Governmental Complex to accommodate a fourth Judge. Substantial progress is being made and the Laramie County district court judges would like to move forward in requesting additional funding this session as space for the fourth Judge may become available after the 2018 legislative session, but before the 2019 session. Judge Campbell asked for support from the Board and the Supreme Court for legislation to fund the fourth judge’s chambers upon completion of the Complex and immediate funding for a fourth law clerk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Motion:</b> Judge Haws moved, seconded by Judge Roberts, to support the First Judicial District Judges’ request for legislation to fund an additional law clerk position immediately and to fund a full fourth chamber staff to become immediately available upon completion of the Laramie County Governmental Complex renovation.</li> <li>• <b>Action taken by the Board:</b> After discussion, the motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Filing Efficiency</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attorney Requests – Lily Sharpe               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Correspondence from Representative Pelkey</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

i. Email/PDF Filing

Lily Sharpe discussed correspondence from Representative Pelkey highlighting two areas of concern and the possibility of legislation to address the concerns. (Appendix 1) The first concern involved inconsistent rules and fees relating to filing by email.

Ronda Munger, Deputy State Court Administrator, explained there are various practices in the circuit courts with respect to email filing and fax fees. Wyo. R. Civ. P. 5 states, in part:

Rule 5. Serving and Filing Pleadings and Other Papers

(e) *Filing with the court defined.* . . . Any paper filed by electronic means must be followed by an identical signed or otherwise duly executed original, or copy of any electronic transmission other than facsimile transmission, together with the fee as set forth in the Rules For Fees and Costs for District Court or the Rules For Fees and Costs For Circuit Court, mailed within 24 hours of the electronic transmission.

Ronda Munger indicated that some judges interpret “electronic means” to mean email. The fee for a fax used to be a \$2.00 flat fee. Wyo. R. Dist. Cts. Fees 4 was amended effective March 1, 2013 to charge \$1.00 per page. Further, Wyo. R. Civ. P. 5(e) specifies “No document which exceeds ten (10) pages in length may be filed by facsimile or electronic means.” The Rule, however, is often not followed. Lily advised she discouraged Representative Pelkey from bringing legislation to require clerks to accept email filing because the Judiciary is currently working towards electronic filing. After discussion, there was consensus by the Board that legislation should be discouraged to allow the courts to focus on moving to electronic filing.

B. Paper Size

The second issue raised by Representative Pelkey concerned lack of uniformity in paper size for documents filed in state courts. Rule 403 of the Uniform Rules for the District Courts states that briefs and jury instructions shall be filed on 8 ½ x 11 (letter) sized paper. Some courts interpret the Rule to mean all other pleadings shall be filed on legal sized paper.

Representative Pelkey advised he and other members of the Joint Judiciary Committee are considering sponsoring legislation to require all documents to be filed on letter sized paper.

After considerable discussion, Chief Justice Burke suggested it may be beneficial for the Judicial Branch to take cation, rather than the Legislature. He noted one of the responses to a survey of judges to preferred paper size stated, “All documents should be submitted on 8 ½ x 11 paper. The days of 8 ½ x 14 paper are over for the reason that more often than not, documents are reviewed electronically and the smaller paper size improves the view.”

**Action taken by the Board:** Justice Fox moved, seconded by Judge Castor, to recommend the district judges support changing Rule 403 of the Uniform Rules for the District Courts to require all documents

	to be filled on 8 ½ x 11 paper. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.
<b>Judicial Salaries</b>  	<p>1. Update – Chief Justice Burke and Judge Skar</p> <p>A. Salary History and Comparison</p> <p>Chief Justice Burke relayed an update from Judge Skar. The judges would like to see a raise but understand the current economic difficulties. The judges favor Senator Leland Christensen’s suggestion that the Joint Judiciary Committee study judicial salary increases in the next interim.</p> <p>Judge Christensen voiced the circuit court judges’ recommendation that a salary plan should include three levels. The circuit judges would receive the first level of funding. The district judges’ salary would be level one plus fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). The Supreme Court justices’ salary would be level one plus thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000).</p> <p>Chief Justice Burke commented the Wyoming Supreme Court salaries rank 30<sup>th</sup> and the district judges’ salaries rank 25<sup>th</sup> in the nation. A survey of judicial salaries by the National Center for State Courts delineates factors which judicial compensation committees take into account, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall economic climate of the state and rate of inflation;</li> <li>• Levels of compensation earned by judges in other states and the federal judiciary;</li> <li>• State’s interest in attracting highly qualified and experienced attorneys to serve as judges;</li> <li>• Consideration of adjustments received by other state employees; and</li> <li>• The state’s overall ability to fund increases in compensation.</li> </ul> <p>When comparing levels of compensation earned by judges in surrounding states, Colorado is a good comparison. The Supreme Court justices’ salaries in Colorado are \$173,024 and the district court judges’ salaries are \$159,320. North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho and Montana however, do not pay judges as well as Colorado.</p> <p>Chief Justice Burke cautioned that the Chief Justice Conference recommended avoiding a judicial salary commission. This is because makeup of the commission and the implementation process dictate the success of the salary increase. The National Center for State Court’s survey of judicial salaries is attached. (Appendix 2)</p> <p>Judge Christensen suggested the judges prepare a bill draft to present at the first Joint Judiciary Interim Committee meeting in 2018.</p> <p>Chief Justice Burke requested that the district and circuit judges discuss salary increases at their next conference meetings.</p>
<b>Judicial Education Committee</b>  Members: Justice Kautz	<p>1. Update – Justice Kautz, Chairman and Eydie Trautwein</p> <p>A. New Judge Orientation</p>

<p>(Chair), Chief Justice Burke, Judge Sullins, Judge Lavery, Judge Haws, and Judge Williams</p>	<p>Justice Kautz imparted that the new judges' orientation on August 9, 2017 went very well. Eydie Trautwein, Director of Legal Resources and Judicial Education, added that Judges Snyder, Peasley and Simpson all attended the orientation in Cheyenne. Judges, Skar, Rumpke, Lavery, Forgey, Waldrip, Day, Bluemel and Edelman gave presentations. Judge Abrams from Minnesota (National Center for State Courts) presented on civil law. In addition to the work sessions, the new judges also received the district judge bench book.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B. State Bar Meeting (September 12 &amp; 13)</p> <p>Eydie Trautwein requested suggestions for topics judges would like to see covered during the "judicial ethics" and "advanced evidence for judges" presentations. Chief Justice Burke thanked both Justice Kautz and Eydie for their hard work.</p>
<p><b>Judicial Conference Reports</b></p> <p>District Conference President: Judge Skar</p> <p>Circuit Conference President: Judge Christensen</p> <p>Judicial Council Chairman: Chief Justice Burke</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Circuit Court Conference – Judge Christensen Judge Christensen advised that the winter meeting will be held December 7 and 8, 2017 in Casper. The circuit judges may invite legislators to attend.</li> <li>2. District Court Conference – Judge Skar Judge Rogers noted that Judge Tyler is the incoming president. Because it is difficult to have a winter meeting in December, Judge Tyler may consider a November meeting or meeting by video.</li> <li>3. Judicial Council Chairman – Chief Justice Burke The Judicial Council is made up of the Conferences of Supreme Court Justices, District Court Judges, Circuit Court Judges and Municipal Court Judges. The Municipal judges are not specifically invited to the September meeting at this time, but consideration should be given to including them in the future.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Judicial Branch Technology</b></p> <p><u>Courtroom Technology Committee</u> Members: Justice Davis (Chair), Chief Justice Burke, Judge Tyler, Judge Sharpe, Judge Christensen, and Judge Prokos</p> <p><u>Courtroom Automation Committee</u> Members: Justice Davis (Chair), Judge Fenn, Judge Skar, Judge Campbell,</p>	<p><b>IT DIVISION UPDATE – Julie Goyen</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Overview – Julie Goyen Julie Goyen, Chief Information Officer, announced Mary Thomas, Project Manager, will retire at the end of the week. Heather Kenworthy, Business Analyst, will take the lead on FullCourt Enterprise, aiSmartBench, CitePay, eFiling and other court automation projects. Tricia Gasner, Business Applications Manager, will take the lead on jury management.</li> <li>2. Jury Management System – Tricia Gasner Tricia Gasner updated the Board on the Jury Management System. Work continues among the AgileJury team, Conduent and the pilot courts. Conduent will be on-site the week of September 11 and September 25 for functional training with court staff and the pilot courts. The pilot courts are Laramie and Platte counties district and circuit courts.</li> </ol>

<p>Judge Christensen, Judge Castano, Judge Haws</p>	<p><b>COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATES</b></p> <p>1. Courtroom Technology Upgrade Phases – Julie Goyen</p> <p>A. Courtroom Technology</p> <p>i. Statewide Courtroom Technology Rollout Schedule</p> <p>Julie Goyen gave an update regarding the statewide courtroom technology rollout. During the last Courtroom Technology Committee meeting, the Committee approved a schedule for rollout. (Appendix 3) The rollout schedule is dependent on legislative approval of increased spending authority. The approximate cost of the plan is seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) and will take an estimated five (5) years to complete. Maintenance and support will be added gradually, and will be three-hundred sixty-five thousand dollars (\$365,000) for the first five (5) years, and then one-hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year. This will include one visit to each courtroom annually.</p> <p>ii. Fee Increase Took Effect July 1</p> <p>The fee increase to the Judicial Systems Automation account took place on July 1, 2017 of this year and extra fees are starting to come in.</p> <p>iii. Lines of Delineation: Joint Judiciary Meeting <i>Tentative</i> November 16 &amp; 17 (Wheatland)</p> <p>1. Attendance</p> <p>Lily Sharpe advised the Joint Judiciary Committee made only slight changes to the Courtroom Technology Committee’s proposed bill draft clarifying that counties are responsible for providing the infrastructure for courtroom technology. The bill draft will be considered at the final meeting of the Joint Judiciary Committee in November.</p> <p>At the request of the Joint Judiciary Committee, the IT staff will also present the statewide courtroom technology rollout plan to the Joint Judiciary Committee at its November meeting and detail the costs of the plan.</p> <p>iv. Formal Requests Status</p> <p>Julie Goyen updated that fifteen (15) requests for emergency courtroom IT upgrades have been received since February. The most recent requests were from Goshen County Circuit Court (install completed last week) and Natrona County District Court (scheduled for August 31 through September 1). Sweetwater County will also receive seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for the new Judicial center. Uinta County is waiting on the County Commissioners for costs of possible electrical work in the courthouse. Lastly, an install was completed on August 10 in the Platte County District Courtroom.</p> <p>B. Project Stratus (Phase 1 of Office 365/Network Upgrade/Hubs)</p> <p>Microsoft Surface Hubs have been or are being delivered to Pinedale, Jackson, Afton, Kemmerer, Evanston, Green River and Rock Springs this week. Additionally, Jackson, Pinedale and Afton will migrate to Office 365 this week.</p>
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C. UW CLE – September 30

Justice Davis advised there will be a CLE at the University of Wyoming presented by himself and Judge Sharpe on courtroom technology and court automation.

**COURTROOM AUTOMATION COMMITTEE UPDATES**

1. Overview – Justice Davis

Public Access has been a hot topic. The Committee has identified a number of critical decisions that need to be made by the Courtroom Automation Committee.

2. Project Status – Elisa Butler

A. Circuit Court Automation Committee and F.C.E. Upgrade

Elisa Butler, Staff Attorney, advised the circuit courts are using FullCourt v5 and the system is being upgraded to the newest version, FullCourt Enterprise. There is a committee of circuit court clerks which meets every week with Supreme Court staff to go through the new system and work on configuration.

B. District Court Automation Committee and F.C.E. Configuration

The district courts' WyUser case management system will be changed to FullCourt Enterprise, so all limited jurisdiction and trial courts will be on the same case management system. A district court committee made up of district court clerks and Supreme Court staff meet every week to configure the system.

There will be a fourth and final GAP session with Justice Systems, Inc. (JSI) in September. The focus of the session is to identify gaps between WyUser and FullCourt Enterprise and to make sure those gaps are filled. Once the final GAP session is completed, JSI will ramp up the development to customize the software for Wyoming. Delivery of the system is anticipated in the spring of 2018. Testing to ensure it works the way the courts want it to will start upon delivery.

C. aiSmartBench

aiSmartBench is a system offered by a company called Mentis. The product will provide electronic case management tools for district court judges. Heather Kenworthy, Business Analyst, is working on getting familiar with this system. A demonstration of the system is scheduled for the district court judges during their conference in September.

D. Public Access

The first public access meeting was held at the end of June, 2017. There are a lot of issues to work out moving forward. Justice Davis explained the history of public access. Originally, the intent was that public access would be available and free to the public. A letter was received from the district court clerks stating they did not favor public access. The clerks are concerned with liability because of private information inadvertently being released and the loss of copy fees.

	<p>Judge Fenn has also expressed concern about private information not being properly redacted. Copy fees are set out in Wyo. Stat. § 5-3-206 (a)(vi). The section provides:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) For all civil matters filed or commenced, the clerk of each district court shall charge the following fees:</p> <p style="padding-left: 80px;">(vi) For copying or photostating any record or paper of the clerk's office when the instrument, record or paper contains one (1) page, one dollar (\$1.00), and when more, fifty cents (\$.50) for each additional page.</p> <p>The Public Access Committee discussed including a fee for public access and a log-in requirement. Justice Davis noted that in the federal PACER system, the user must have an account. The system keeps credit card information and charges only if the user downloads more than fifteen dollars (\$15) or more of data per month. There is a cost to set up a fee system.</p> <p>An issue as to court calendars has also come up. The JSI Public Access Module has an option of showing the court calendars. Because the calendars show where judges are if traveling, the Committee opposed this feature.</p> <p>Another concern is whether public access should include old cases in WyUser or should begin as of go-live day and forward. The consensus is to start public access on the day FullCourt Enterprise is implemented in hopes of eliminating any migration issues.</p> <p>Transcripts are another area of concern. The Committee's recommendation is to make transcripts inaccessible via remote public access. It is possible, like PACER, to make transcripts unavailable for a designated time period. To obtain a transcript during the time period, the user would need to contact the court reporter. Individuals, however, still must be able to go to the court and look at the redacted transcript. The Committee will need to take a look at these concerns and whether JSI's system has the ability for a document to be viewed on the court's public terminal, but not remotely.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">E. E-Filing</p> <p>Discussions have begun with a company called Tybera. The hope is to have executed contracts within the next month.</p>
<p><b>Redaction Committee</b></p> <p>Judicial Members: Justice Davis (Chair), Judge Castano</p>	<p>1. Update – Justice Davis, Chairman, and Patty Bennett</p> <p>Justice Davis recounted that by statute certain transcripts must be prepared in criminal cases. However, there may be no attorneys involved to ensure the transcript is redacted. The Committee is considering options to resolve the redaction of transcripts. There is software that can redact transcripts. The lack of compliance by attorneys will require education and possible sanctions. Patty Bennett, Clerk of the Supreme Court, added that the Committee is looking at clarifying the rules to help alleviate the district court clerks' concerns, including liability. Patty is drafting proposed rule changes.</p>



<p><b>Case v. Count</b></p>	<p>1. Update – Chief Justice Burke</p> <p>A. Wyoming Circuit Court Fees and Costs Rule 1. Costs and Fees in Criminal Actions (Appendix 4)</p> <p>B. Wyoming Rules of Criminal Procedure Rule 3. Indictment, Information or Citation (Appendix 5)</p> <p>At the last BJPA meeting, the Board discussed whether circuit court citation forms should allow for more than one charge. Wyo. R. Crim. P. 3 requires that each citation may include only one charge. Chief Justice Burke discussed deferring to the authority of the Executive Branch, including the Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies, to cite as law enforcement deems appropriate. The Chief sought additional input from the Board. Judge Castor recalled that Wyo. R. Crim. P. 3 at one time permitted multiple charges on one citation. The Rule was amended in April of 2014 and the amendment became effective in July of 2014. Judge Castor advanced that permitting more than one charge per citation will require addressing certain issues including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amending the uniform citation form to include multiple probable cause statements and statutes;</li> <li>2. Amending the bond schedule to address different filing fees based on the charge; and</li> <li>3. Increase in errors on citations and their effect on all the charges.</li> </ol> <p>Justice Davis observed the inconsistency between the Supreme Court’s decision in <i>Haws v. State</i> discussing statutory mandates that fees be imposed per case and Wyo. R. Crim. P. 3(b)(3)(c) prohibiting more than one charge per citation. Judges Haws, Castor and Roberts shared concerns about changing Rule 3. Judge Castor suggested assigning one case number to multiple charges. Chief Justice Burke asked the Conferences to discuss the issue at the upcoming September meeting and to provide input to the Supreme Court shortly after the meeting.</p>
<p><b>Permanent Rules Advisory Committee (PRAC)</b></p> <p><u>Appellate Division</u> Judicial Members: Justice Davis, Judge Fenn</p> <p><u>Civil Division</u> Judicial Members: Justice Fox (Chair), Judge Castano, Judge Kricken, Judge Rumpke</p>	<p>1. Appellate Rules Update – Justice Davis and Patty Bennett</p> <p>Justice Davis noted a few minor changes being considered by the Supreme Court. These include: briefs on single sided paper; the ability to win the cost of a transcript; and extending the time for granting an extension of time for a notice of appeal. Justice Fox has additionally suggested lowering the page length from seventy (70) pages to fifty (50) pages for principal briefs and ten (10) pages for reply briefs. Justice Davis mentioned that word count may also be an option, as well as having possible combined briefs for multiple and interrelated parties.</p> <p>2. Civil Rules Update – Justice Fox and Patty Bennett</p> <p>Justice Fox indicated there have only been two comments on the new rules. The Committee will meet to discuss them.</p> <p>Judge Rogers encouraged the Committee to consider rule revisions clarifying Title 25 hearings may be held by video conference. Justice Fox invited Judge</p>

<p><u><b>Criminal Division</b></u> Judicial Members: Judge Edelman (Chair), Judge Arp</p> <p><u><b>Evidence Division</b></u> Judicial Members: Judge Rumpke (Chair), Judge Nau, Judge Radda</p> <p><u><b>Juvenile Division</b></u> Judicial Members: Judge Wilking (Chair), Justice Kautz, Judge Campbell, Judge Fenn</p>	<p>Rogers to send suggestions for the Civil Rules Committee to consider.</p> <p>3. Criminal Rules Update – Judge Edelman and Patty Bennett</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. Rule 41(b)</p> <p>Patty Bennett, Clerk of the Supreme Court, advised that the circuit court judges’ proposed change to Wyo. R. Crim. P. 41 is under consideration by the Supreme Court Conference. The requested change to Wyo. R. Crim. P. 41 is as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Rule 41. Search and Seizure</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b)Authority to issue warrant. Upon request of the attorney for the state or a federal, state, or local peace officer, a search warrant authorized by this rule may be issued by a judicial officer. If issued by a judicial officer other than a district <u>or circuit</u> judge it shall be by a judicial officer for the jurisdiction wherein the property sought is located.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. Rule 43 Modifications</p> <p>Patty Bennett reminded the Board that the Court Technology Committee proposed changes to Wyo. R. Crim. P. 43 to allow defendants to appear by video. The Criminal Rules Committee considered the changes and suggested the judge should also be deemed present. The Criminal Rules Committee may wish to send this back to the Court Technology Committee.</p> <p>4. Rules of Evidence Update – Judge Rumpke and Patty Bennett</p> <p>The Committee will meet during the upcoming Bar Conference.</p> <p>5. Juvenile Rules Update – Judge Wilking and Patty Bennett</p> <p>The Committee will meet during the upcoming Bar Conference.</p>
<p><b>Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee</b></p> <p>Judicial Members: Judge Bluemel, Judge Campbell, Judge Greer</p>	<p>1. Update – Lily Sharpe</p> <p>No update.</p>
<p><b>Access to Justice Commission</b></p>	<p>1. Update – Justice Fox</p> <p>No update.</p>
<p><b>Wyoming Spending and Government Efficiency Commission</b></p>	<p>1. Update – Kristi Racines</p> <p>Kristi Racines, Chief Fiscal Officer, spoke about the newly formed Commission. The bill to create the Commission was passed last year. The purpose of the</p>

	Commission is to delve into possible inefficiencies within State agencies. The Commission has hired a consultant to study efficiencies in the State government.
<b>Branch Budget</b>	<p>1. Update – Kristi Racines</p> <p>Kristi Racines is preparing the final budgets, which are due November 1. She will send draft budgets to the district judges in the next six (6) weeks. The Judiciary will present to the Joint Appropriations Committee on December 5, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Chief Justice Burke also noted that the Joint Judiciary Committee will meet in Wheatland in November. Staff will be in touch to see who will attend. The Chief encouraged the Conferences to have members attend.</p>
<b>Equal Justice Wyoming</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update – Angie Dorsch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Annual Report</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Angie Dorsch, Executive Director of Equal Justice Wyoming, updated the Board on Equal Justice Wyoming's (EJW) annual report, which was completed in July. (Appendix 6) In FY 2017, EJW and the programs it funds assisted over four-thousand (4,000) people. The three prongs of the program are: 1) the statewide pro bono program EJW manages, 2) the self-help information and resources, and 3) EJW grants to legal aid providers. Angie highlighted the successes of the programs.</p> <p>1. Statewide Pro Bono Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A large increase in the pro bono program over the last year;</li> <li>• Two-hundred five (205) people were served by a volunteer attorney, which was an increase from one-hundred seventy-seven (177) in 2016 (seventy percent (70%) were family law cases);</li> <li>• The volunteer reference attorney (VRA) program started as a pilot in March 2016 in Cheyenne. The program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Places attorneys in the courthouse twice a month to help pro se litigants navigate the court system;</li> <li>○ Provides help with procedural questions;</li> <li>○ Has expanded to five (5) locations – Cheyenne, Casper, Laramie, Rawlins and Sheridan;</li> <li>○ Has had forty-six (46) attorneys volunteer;</li> <li>○ Has assisted three-hundred thirty-six (336) people;</li> <li>○ Is hoping to continue to expand; and</li> <li>○ Will visit Green River this week and hopes to launch there in October.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wyoming Free Legal Answers was launched in August of 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The ABA and Baker Donelson created the portal;</li> <li>○ EJW staff is the site administrator;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A secure portal screens applicants for eligibility and allows eligible individuals to submit a question;</li> <li>○ Attorneys register to answer questions on the site;</li> <li>○ EJW ensures all attorneys are in good standing before they can access to the site; and</li> <li>○ One-hundred fifty-three (153) legal questions were answered.</li> </ul> <p>EJW continues to sponsor monthly legal advice clinics in Cheyenne and will launch monthly clinics in Laramie beginning in September.</p> <p>2. Self-help Information and Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A major self-help resource is EJW’s website. They’ve seen a huge spike in the use of the website; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Forty-seven percent (47%) increase in the number of site visits, jumped from twenty-six thousand (26,000) in 2016 to over thirty-eight thousand five-hundred (38,500) in 2017; and,</li> <li>○ Forty-eight percent (48%) increase in unique users on the site, jumped from nineteen-thousand (19,000) in 2016 to over twenty-eight thousand five hundred (28,500) in 2017.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• An increase in the use of the Interactive Self-Help Center; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Eight-hundred sixty-four (864) new users created an account;</li> <li>○ Two-hundred seventy-one (271) people used an automated interview; and</li> <li>○ One-hundred twenty-four (124) printed completed court forms.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>3. Grants to Legal Aid Providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EJW provided more than nine-hundred twenty-four thousand dollars (\$924,000) in grants in the year 2017;</li> <li>• EJW’s grantees are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Legal Aid of Wyoming;</li> <li>○ Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault;</li> <li>○ Wyoming Children’s Law Center;</li> <li>○ Teton County Access to Justice Center; and</li> <li>○ Laramie County Community Partnership.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>With EJW’s grant funds, the Laramie County Community Partnership (LCCP) launched Wyoming’s first medical-legal partnership. The partnership addresses health harming legal needs.</p> <p>Angie also discussed future federal funding for legal services. EJW conducted a campaign during the last funding cycle and will continue to work for federal funding in the future.</p> <p>Chief Justice Burke thanked Angie for EJW’s work.</p>
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<p><b>Court Security Update</b></p>	<p>1. Update – Ronda Munger</p> <p>The Commission recently met on August 2, 2017. Reports have been received on the seven new counties that received assessments last year. Those counties are: Carbon, Converse, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Sheridan, Uinta and Washakie. There was some discussion with the co-chair of the Joint Appropriations Committee, Representative Nicholas, about funding this session for the needed improvements. Ronda noted there was some encouragement and believes the Committee will move forward with a plan seeking an appropriation. Chief Justice Burke pointed out the importance of requesting funds now that security deficits have been identified.</p>
<p><b>Children’s Justice Project</b></p>	<p>1. Update – Eydie Trautwein</p> <p>Eydie Trautwein, Director of Legal Resources and Judicial Education, informed the Board that the Children’s Justice Project (CJP) has received full funding for FFY17 (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018). FFY18 is uncertain.</p> <p>The Symposium on Children and Youth will be held August 15-17, 2017 in Laramie. Eydie anticipates over three-hundred fifty (350) attorneys will attend. The symposium will offer attorney workshops on juvenile court related topics, including juvenile competency, confidentiality and expert witnesses.</p> <p>CJP will host a breakfast session during the Judicial Council meetings during the Bar Convention. The session will cover over fifteen (15) Wyoming Supreme Court opinions and explore juvenile court trends with respects to consent decrees, best interests, children in court and permanency hearings.</p> <p>CJP has completed several statewide ICWA trainings, parent attorney trainings and juvenile court refresher trainings. Juvenile Court Refresher Trainings were held in these locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November, 2016 – Rock Springs (3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District);</li> <li>• January, 2017 – Laramie (2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District);</li> <li>• May 8, 2017 – Kemmerer (3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District);</li> <li>• June 2, 2017 – Buffalo (4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District);</li> <li>• July 21, 2017 – Lander (9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District); and</li> <li>• CJP is planning refresher trainings in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> districts for next year (new judges are interested in holding trainings in their areas).</li> </ul> <p>CJP has completed a first draft of a CJP juvenile court prosecutor’s handbook and will present to county attorneys in September during the Wyoming Association of County Officials. Topics will include ICWA, case law update and the new handbook.</p> <p>The next CJP Advisory Council scheduled for September 21. Judge Snyder has</p>

	replaced Judge Cranfill on the Council.
<b>Pretrial Release Issues</b>	<p>1. Court Ordered Financial Obligations – Judge Haws No update.</p> <p>2. Evidence Based Pretrial Practices – Patty Bennett There will be an education program offered at the September judicial meeting.</p>
<b>Audit of Circuit Courts</b>	The Board received circuit court audit reports for Newcastle and Sheridan.
<b>Judge Kail Photo on Equality Wall</b>	<p>1. Update – Eydie Trautwein</p> <p>A committee has been formed and includes Judge Denhardt, Judge McKee, Judge Young, Jared Kail, Carolyn Orr, Terry Rogers (Ret.) and Eydie Trautwein. Please let Eydie know if you would like to join the Committee. The Committee met on July 24, 2017. Action items from the meeting include: 1) identification of a photo; 2) drafting language for a plaque to accompany the photo; and 3) meeting with Warehouse 21 on August 23 to talk about “sprucing” up the Supreme Court Equality Wall. The Committee discussed holding a ceremony in May, 2018 in Lander and then holding a small ceremony later in the summer of 2018 in Cheyenne to place the picture on the wall. The next committee meeting will be held on September 18, 2017.</p>
<b>BJPA Rule Revision</b>	<p>1. Update – Lily Sharpe</p> <p>Lily Sharpe, State Court Administrator, brought up the possibility of updating the BJPA’s electronic voting policy. Currently, Rule 8 states: “The Board of Judicial Policy and Administration shall act only at a meeting, unless agreed to unanimously by the Board, in which case the Board may take action or vote by email or other means.” Lily suggested the Board may wish to consider amending the rules to permit voting by email in the same manner as at a meeting. The amendment would give the Board more flexibility to act in the interim between meetings. Chief Justice Burke asked staff to prepare a draft Rule change for the next meeting.</p>
<p><b>Actions taken by the Board:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the First Judicial District Judges’ request for legislation to fund an additional law clerk position immediately and to fund a full fourth chamber staff to become available upon completion of the Laramie County Governmental Complex renovation.</li> <li>2. Recommend the District Judges support a change to Rule 403 of the Uniform Rules for the District Courts requiring letter size (8 ½ x 11) paper for all documents filed with the courts.</li> </ol>	

### Action Items:

1. Court staff to relay to Representative Pelkey the Board's consensus to discourage legislation requiring clerks to accept email filing to allow the courts to focus on moving to electronic filing.
2. District Court Conference to discuss:
  - a. Supporting a change to Rule 403 of the Uniform Rules for District Courts to provide that all documents be filed on 8 ½ x 11 paper; and
3. District and Circuit Court Conference to discuss:
  - a. Amending Wyo. R. Crim. P. 3(b)(3)(c) to allow more than one charge on a citation or other options to ensure fees are not imposed per count and provide an update to Chief Justice Burke as soon as possible after the September judicial meetings.
  - b. Salary increase plan.
4. Court staff to relay to Representative Pelkey decision on changing court rules to require all documents to be filed on letter sized paper.
5. Court staff to prepare draft rule change to BIPA email vote process. Proposed BIPA Rule revision to be placed on the next BIPA agenda.

### Schedule of Future Events

Judge Peasley's robing Ceremony (Douglas) –August 24, 2017  
Judge Snyder's Robing Ceremony (Rawlins) – Aug 30, 2017  
Judge Simpson's Robing Ceremony (Cody) – Sept 6, 2017  
Judicial Conferences and Council Meeting (Cheyenne, Little America) –  
Sept 12-13, 2017  
Joint Judiciary Committee Meeting (Wheatland) – Nov 16-17, 2017  
JAC Consideration of Judicial Budgets – Dec 5, 2017, morning  
BJPA Meeting – Dec 11, 2017

**Appendix 1:** Correspondence from Representative Pelkey

**Appendix 2:** National Center for State Court's survey of judicial salaries

**Appendix 3:** Statewide Courtroom Technology Rollout Schedule

**Appendix 4:** Rule Change – Rule 1 of the Circuit Court Fees and Costs

**Appendix 5:** Wyo. R. Crim. P. 3. Indictment, Information or Citation

**Appendix 6:** Equal Justice Wyoming Annual Report

Approved on October 26, 2017

Dear Lily,

Thanks for taking the time to speak with me today. I appreciate the update on the progress of our state's court automation effort and I am quite pleased that the legislature voted to increase those fees. I trust that will speed things along.

I do, however, want to pass along some thoughts from a conversation I had with Senator Nethercott and Representative Olsen after the last Judiciary Committee meeting. All three of us have, as practicing attorneys, been frustrated with a few issues when it comes to filing in various courts around the state. In most municipal courts, we submit all of our filings on letter-sized paper. In Circuit and District courts we file on legal sized paper ...but sometimes on letter-sized for briefs. When we go to the Supreme Court, we're back to letter-sized. All three of us are often left scratching our collective heads trying to explain why Wyoming Courts have such variable rules on a topic that should be easy to address.

I spoke with an attorney with the AG's office yesterday and he said "if you can do anything for the legal profession in the state, get us some consistency on just paper sizes. I've practiced in four states and I've never seen anything like it until I got here."

Beyond that, the three of us on Judiciary have also been immensely frustrated by the current state of "electronic filing," for Circuit and District courts. We have inconsistent court-by-court rules regarding the cost and practice of submitting a last-minute filing via fax. In some courts, It's as simple as making a phone call and letting them know how paper work will be submitted. In some counties, it requires payment of \$1 per page to submit via fax. In others, it requires \$2 per page. In others, it even requires the permission of the judge to submit a fax filing.

As a remedy, the three of us are considering proposing a "Wyoming Judicial Filing Efficiency Act" that would require court clerks to accept emailed/PDF filings (for no charge), which would be followed up with a hard-copy via First Class Mail. Furthermore, we're considering mandating the use of letter sized paper for ALL filings across the state. I am still wondering if the legislature would have the authority to do that ... but that hasn't stopped us before.

Frankly, I like the idea, but I don't want to upset the apple cart when it comes to the progress you've already made toward our ultimate goal of a statewide electronic filing system. I would welcome your thoughts, particularly if you're suggesting we exercise caution. I could use some input from the judiciary on the problems we're hoping to address if we do ultimately submit a bill in the 2018 session.

*Charles F. Pelkey*

Minority Whip, Wyoming House of Representatives  
House District 45 (D)  
311 South 4th Street  
Laramie, WY, 82070  
Office: (307)745-3031  
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# SURVEY OF Judicial Salaries

## How States Set Judicial Salaries

States have devised a number of different ways for changing judicial salaries. Whatever the method for implementing changes, the desired system for both judges and the taxpaying public strives to be predictable, reasonable, and easily assessed. When considering judicial salary increases, states with compensation commissions are tasked by statute with considering a variety of factors, including:

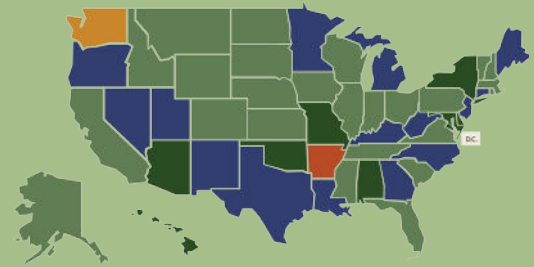
- Overall economic climate of the state and rate of inflation;
- Levels of compensation earned by judges in other states and the federal judiciary;
- State's interest in attracting highly qualified and experienced attorneys to serve as judges;
- Consideration of adjustments received by other state employees; and
- The state's overall ability to fund increases in compensation.

While some states have compensation commissions, roughly half the states do not. The states with compensation commissions implement changes in four different ways, which are detailed below.

1. **Advisory:** The commission presents a salary report that serves as a recommendation for legislative action.
2. **Binding unless overridden by legislature:** The commission's salary report goes into effect unless changed or overridden by the legislature. The threshold can be a simple majority or as high as two-thirds.
3. **Binding unless overridden by voters.**
4. **Binding cannot be overridden:** The commission's salary report goes into effect and cannot be changed or overridden by the legislature. This appears to be limited to the newly formed Independent Citizens Commission of Arkansas, which sets salaries for state elected officials in all three branches.

The map shown on the right highlights states that use commissions and the different ways in which they make changes detailed above. For more information on the specific makeup of state salary commissions, statutory authority, and processes, visit our website at [www.ncsc.org/salarytracker](http://www.ncsc.org/salarytracker).

## EFFECT OF A COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION



### ADVISORY

Connecticut	Michigan	North Carolina
Georgia	Minnesota	Oregon
Kentucky	Nevada	Texas
Louisiana	New Jersey	Utah
Maine	New Mexico	West Virginia

### BINDING UNLESS OVERRIDDEN BY LEGISLATURE

Alabama	Hawaii	New York
Arizona	Maryland	Oklahoma
Delaware	Missouri	

### BINDING UNLESS OVERRIDDEN BY VOTERS

Washington

### BINDING CANNOT BE OVERRIDDEN

Arkansas

### NO COMMISSION

Alaska	Massachusetts	South Carolina
California	Mississippi	South Dakota
Colorado	Montana	Tennessee
Florida	Nebraska	Vermont
Idaho	New Hampshire	Virginia
Illinois	North Dakota	Wisconsin
Indiana	Ohio	Wyoming
Iowa	Pennsylvania	
Kansas	Rhode Island	

## Judicial Salaries at a Glance

The average annual percent change for the four judicial positions, and the state court administrators analyzed by the Survey, is 1.72% for increases from January 1, 2016 through January 1, 2017. As indicated in the table below, this increase remains below the pre-recession (2003-2007) average increase of 3.24%.

	Mean	Median	Range	Average Annual % Change			
				Pre-Recession 2003-2007	Recession 2008-2009	Recession 2010-2011	Recovery 2012-2016
Chief, Highest Court	\$175,236	\$171,975	\$133,174 to \$245,269	3.19%	1.58%	0.67%	2.23%
Associate Justice, COLR	\$169,325	\$168,046	\$130,136 to \$233,888	3.21%	1.88%	0.64%	2.21%
Judge, Intermediate Appellate Court	\$163,319	\$162,488	\$124,616 to \$219,272	3.20%	1.60%	0.36%	2.35%
Judge, General Jurisdiction Trial Courts	\$152,525	\$149,605	\$118,384 to \$205,100	3.30%	1.91%	0.58%	2.32%
State Court Administrators	\$150,867	\$143,163	\$107,000 to \$245,640	3.30%	1.38%	0.89%	2.16%
Average				3.24%	1.67%	0.63%	2.26%

## Salaries and Rankings for Appellate and General-Jurisdiction Judges - Listed Alphabetically by State Name

The table below lists the salaries and rankings for associate justices of the courts of last resort, associate judges of intermediate appellate courts, and judges of general-jurisdiction trial courts (actual salaries and cost-of-living-adjusted salaries as of January 1, 2017). Where possible, the salary figures are actual salaries. In jurisdictions where some judges receive supplements, the figures are the most representative available—either the base salary, the midpoint of a range between the lowest and highest supplemented salaries, or the median. Salaries are ranked from highest to lowest, with the highest salary for each position having a rank of “1.” The lowest salary has a rank of “51” except for intermediate appellate courts, which exist in only 40 states. The mean, median, and salary range for each of the positions are also shown.

	Highest Court		Intermediate Appellate Court		General-Jurisdiction Court		General-Jurisdiction Court Adjusted for Cost-of-Living Index		
	Salary	Rank	Salary	Rank	Salary	Rank	Factor	Salary	Rank
Alabama	\$ 167,685	28	\$ 178,878	7	\$ 134,943	39	95.71	\$ 140,993	21
Alaska	\$ 205,176	7	\$ 193,836	6	\$ 189,720	6	135.65	\$ 139,863	23
Arizona	\$ 157,325	34	\$ 152,250	29	\$ 147,175	29	108.25	\$ 135,960	31
Arkansas	\$ 166,500	29	\$ 161,500	21	\$ 160,000	15	95.08	\$ 168,281	4
California	\$ 233,888	1	\$ 219,272	1	\$ 191,612	5	139.89	\$ 136,974	27
Colorado	\$ 173,024	19	\$ 166,170	15	\$ 159,320	18	109.4	\$ 145,625	15
Connecticut	\$ 185,610	10	\$ 174,323	12	\$ 167,634	10	136.08	\$ 123,186	43
Delaware	\$ 195,245	8			\$ 183,444	7	108.29	\$ 169,407	3
District of Columbia	\$ 217,600	4			\$ 205,100	1	146.11	\$ 140,374	22
Florida	\$ 162,200	33	\$ 154,140	27	\$ 146,080	30	105.83	\$ 138,036	26
Georgia	\$ 175,600	17	\$ 174,500	11	\$ 162,442	14	100.35	\$ 161,872	5
Hawaii	\$ 218,820	3	\$ 202,596	4	\$ 197,112	2	157.91	\$ 124,828	40
Idaho	\$ 140,000	44	\$ 130,000	39	\$ 128,500	44	96.96	\$ 132,529	33
Illinois	\$ 224,628	2	\$ 211,416	2	\$ 194,001	3	112.15	\$ 172,987	2
Indiana	\$ 170,195	23	\$ 165,443	16	\$ 141,311	36	97.32	\$ 145,206	17
Iowa	\$ 170,544	22	\$ 154,556	26	\$ 143,897	32	98.95	\$ 145,421	16
Kansas	\$ 135,905	47	\$ 131,518	37	\$ 120,037	50	100.27	\$ 119,711	47
Kentucky	\$ 135,504	48	\$ 130,044	38	\$ 124,620	48	93.87	\$ 132,760	32
Louisiana	\$ 168,045	26	\$ 157,294	24	\$ 151,218	24	99.56	\$ 151,891	10
Maine	\$ 130,136	51			\$ 121,968	49	122.49	\$ 99,577	51
Maryland	\$ 176,433	14	\$ 163,633	19	\$ 154,433	22	120.7	\$ 127,950	37
Massachusetts	\$ 175,984	15	\$ 165,087	17	\$ 159,694	17	133.26	\$ 119,838	46
Michigan	\$ 164,610	31	\$ 152,955	28	\$ 141,318	35	98.46	\$ 143,532	19
Minnesota	\$ 169,135	25	\$ 159,370	22	\$ 149,605	26	105.38	\$ 141,965	20
Mississippi	\$ 152,250	38	\$ 144,827	32	\$ 136,000	37	90.94	\$ 149,543	12
Missouri	\$ 172,017	20	\$ 157,242	25	\$ 148,263	28	98.77	\$ 150,115	11
Montana	\$ 136,177	45			\$ 126,131	46	104.11	\$ 121,156	44
Nebraska	\$ 171,975	21	\$ 163,476	20	\$ 159,077	19	100.21	\$ 158,737	6
Nevada	\$ 170,000	24	\$ 165,000	18	\$ 160,000	15	109.8	\$ 145,725	14
New Hampshire	\$ 162,240	32			\$ 152,159	23	126.5	\$ 120,280	45
New Jersey	\$ 185,482	11	\$ 175,534	10	\$ 165,000	13	125.68	\$ 131,289	34
New Mexico	\$ 131,174	50	\$ 124,616	40	\$ 118,384	51	104.88	\$ 112,876	50
New York	\$ 213,600	5	\$ 203,400	3	\$ 193,000	4	148.76	\$ 129,735	36
North Carolina	\$ 146,191	42	\$ 140,144	34	\$ 132,584	41	101.16	\$ 131,067	35
North Dakota	\$ 157,009	35			\$ 143,869	33	105.25	\$ 136,693	28
Ohio	\$ 156,150	36	\$ 145,550	30	\$ 133,850	40	97.97	\$ 136,618	29
Oklahoma	\$ 145,914	43	\$ 138,235	36	\$ 131,835	42	96.53	\$ 136,569	30
Oregon	\$ 147,559	40	\$ 144,535	33	\$ 135,775	38	114.29	\$ 118,795	48
Pennsylvania	\$ 206,054	6	\$ 194,442	5	\$ 178,868	8	112.89	\$ 158,438	7
Rhode Island	\$ 175,870	16			\$ 158,340	21	127.95	\$ 123,753	42
South Carolina	\$ 148,794	39	\$ 145,074	31	\$ 141,354	34	101.55	\$ 139,194	25
South Dakota	\$ 135,270	49			\$ 126,346	45	101.87	\$ 124,024	41
Tennessee	\$ 182,688	13	\$ 176,616	8	\$ 170,520	9	95.93	\$ 177,758	1
Texas	\$ 168,000	27	\$ 158,500	23	\$ 149,000	27	102.02	\$ 146,050	13
Utah	\$ 174,950	18	\$ 167,000	14	\$ 159,050	20	102.56	\$ 155,073	8
Vermont	\$ 152,538	37			\$ 145,011	31	124.51	\$ 116,468	49
Virginia	\$ 192,458	9	\$ 176,510	9	\$ 166,136	11	107.76	\$ 154,176	9
Washington	\$ 183,021	12	\$ 174,224	13	\$ 165,870	12	114.83	\$ 144,450	18
West Virginia	\$ 136,000	46			\$ 126,000	47	99.36	\$ 126,808	39
Wisconsin	\$ 147,403	41	\$ 139,059	35	\$ 131,187	43	103.07	\$ 127,286	38
Wyoming	\$ 165,000	30			\$ 150,000	25	107.58	\$ 139,434	24
<b>Mean</b>	<b>\$ 169,325</b>		<b>\$ 163,319</b>		<b>\$ 152,525</b>				
<b>Median</b>	<b>\$ 168,046</b>		<b>\$ 162,488</b>		<b>\$ 149,605</b>				
<b>Range</b>	<b>\$ 130,136 to \$ 233,888</b>		<b>\$ 124,616 to \$ 219,272</b>		<b>\$ 118,384 to \$ 205,100</b>				

**Using the C2ER Cost-of-Living Index.** The Council for Community and Economic Research—C2ER—is the most widely accepted U.S. source for cost-of-living indices, with nearly 400 reporting jurisdictions across America. The cost-of-living indices used in this report were developed by C2ER using a robust, multivariable model, which incorporates the costs of goods and services within a reporting jurisdiction along with seven additional variables to greatly improve predicted, statewide average C2ER factors. The seven variables are: community population, population density, income, growth rate, utility rates, efficiency of the government sector, and location of the region. More detailed information can be found at [www.c2er.org](http://www.c2er.org).

## Salaries and Rankings for Appellate and General-Jurisdiction Judges - Listed in Order of State Rank

The table below lists the salaries and rankings for associate justices of the courts of last resort, associate judges of intermediate appellate courts, and judges of general-jurisdiction trial courts (actual salaries and cost-of-living-adjusted salaries as of January 1, 2017). Where possible, the salary figures are actual salaries. In jurisdictions where some judges receive supplements, the figures are the most representative available--either the base salary, the midpoint of a range between the lowest and highest supplemented salaries, or the median. Salaries are ranked from highest to lowest, with the highest salary for each position having a rank of "1." The lowest salary has a rank of "51" except for intermediate appellate courts, which exist in only 40 states. The mean, median, and salary range for each of the positions are also shown.

Highest Court			Intermediate Appellate Court		General-Jurisdiction Court		General-Jurisdiction Court Adjusted for Cost-of-Living Index	
1	California	\$ 233,888	California	\$ 219,272	District of Columbia	\$ 205,100	Tennessee	\$ 177,582
2	Illinois	\$ 224,628	Illinois	\$ 211,416	Hawaii	\$ 197,112	Illinois	\$ 172,987
3	Hawaii	\$ 218,820	New York	\$ 203,400	Illinois	\$ 194,001	Delaware	\$ 166,903
4	District of Columbia	\$ 217,600	Hawaii	\$ 202,596	New York	\$ 193,000	Arkansas	\$ 168,281
5	New York	\$ 213,600	Pennsylvania	\$ 194,442	California	\$ 191,612	Georgia	\$ 161,872
6	Pennsylvania	\$ 206,054	Alaska	\$ 193,836	Alaska	\$ 189,720	Nebraska	\$ 158,737
7	Alaska	\$ 205,176	Alabama	\$ 178,878	Delaware	\$ 183,444	Pennsylvania	\$ 158,438
8	Delaware	\$ 195,245	Tennessee	\$ 176,616	Pennsylvania	\$ 178,868	Utah	\$ 155,073
9	Virginia	\$ 192,458	Virginia	\$ 176,510	Tennessee	\$ 170,520	Virginia	\$ 154,176
10	Connecticut	\$ 185,610	New Jersey	\$ 175,534	Connecticut	\$ 167,634	Louisiana	\$ 151,891
11	New Jersey	\$ 185,482	Georgia	\$ 174,500	Virginia	\$ 166,136	Missouri	\$ 150,115
12	Washington	\$ 183,021	Connecticut	\$ 174,323	Washington	\$ 165,870	Mississippi	\$ 149,543
13	Tennessee	\$ 182,688	Washington	\$ 174,224	New Jersey	\$ 165,000	Texas	\$ 146,049
14	Maryland	\$ 176,433	Utah	\$ 167,000	Georgia	\$ 162,442	Nevada	\$ 145,724
15	Massachusetts	\$ 175,984	Colorado	\$ 166,170	Arkansas	\$ 160,000	Colorado	\$ 145,625
16	Rhode Island	\$ 175,870	Indiana	\$ 165,443	Nevada	\$ 160,000	Iowa	\$ 145,421
17	Georgia	\$ 175,600	Massachusetts	\$ 165,087	Massachusetts	\$ 159,694	Indiana	\$ 145,206
18	Utah	\$ 174,950	Nevada	\$ 165,000	Colorado	\$ 159,320	Washington	\$ 144,450
19	Colorado	\$ 173,024	Maryland	\$ 163,633	Nebraska	\$ 159,077	Michigan	\$ 143,532
20	Missouri	\$ 172,017	Nebraska	\$ 163,476	Utah	\$ 159,050	Minnesota	\$ 141,965
21	Nebraska	\$ 171,975	Arkansas	\$ 161,500	Rhode Island	\$ 158,340	Alabama	\$ 140,993
22	Iowa	\$ 170,544	Minnesota	\$ 159,370	Maryland	\$ 154,433	District of Columbia	\$ 140,374
23	Indiana	\$ 170,195	Texas	\$ 158,500	New Hampshire	\$ 152,159	Alaska	\$ 139,863
24	Nevada	\$ 170,000	Louisiana	\$ 157,294	Louisiana	\$ 151,218	Wyoming	\$ 139,433
25	Minnesota	\$ 169,135	Missouri	\$ 157,242	Wyoming	\$ 150,000	South Carolina	\$ 139,194
26	Louisiana	\$ 168,045	Iowa	\$ 154,556	Minnesota	\$ 149,605	Florida	\$ 138,036
27	Texas	\$ 168,000	Florida	\$ 154,140	Texas	\$ 149,000	California	\$ 136,974
28	Alabama	\$ 167,685	Michigan	\$ 152,955	Missouri	\$ 148,263	North Dakota	\$ 136,693
29	Arkansas	\$ 166,500	Arizona	\$ 152,250	Arizona	\$ 147,175	Ohio	\$ 136,618
30	Wyoming	\$ 165,000	Ohio	\$ 145,550	Florida	\$ 146,080	Oklahoma	\$ 136,568
31	Michigan	\$ 164,610	South Carolina	\$ 145,074	Vermont	\$ 145,011	Arizona	\$ 135,960
32	New Hampshire	\$ 162,240	Mississippi	\$ 144,827	Iowa	\$ 143,897	Kentucky	\$ 132,759
33	Florida	\$ 162,200	Oregon	\$ 144,535	North Dakota	\$ 143,869	Idaho	\$ 132,529
34	Arizona	\$ 157,325	North Carolina	\$ 140,144	South Carolina	\$ 141,354	New Jersey	\$ 131,288
35	North Dakota	\$ 157,009	Wisconsin	\$ 139,059	Michigan	\$ 141,318	North Carolina	\$ 131,067
36	Ohio	\$ 156,150	Oklahoma	\$ 138,235	Indiana	\$ 141,311	New York	\$ 129,735
37	Vermont	\$ 152,538	Kansas	\$ 131,518	Mississippi	\$ 136,000	Maryland	\$ 127,949
38	Mississippi	\$ 152,250	Kentucky	\$ 130,044	Oregon	\$ 135,775	Wisconsin	\$ 127,285
39	South Carolina	\$ 148,794	Idaho	\$ 130,000	Alabama	\$ 134,943	West Virginia	\$ 126,808
40	Oregon	\$ 147,559	New Mexico	\$ 124,616	Ohio	\$ 133,850	Hawaii	\$ 124,828
41	Wisconsin	\$ 147,403	Delaware		North Carolina	\$ 132,584	South Dakota	\$ 124,024
42	North Carolina	\$ 146,191	District of Columbia		Oklahoma	\$ 131,835	Rhode Island	\$ 123,753
43	Oklahoma	\$ 145,914	Maine		Wisconsin	\$ 131,187	Connecticut	\$ 123,186
44	Idaho	\$ 140,000	Montana		Idaho	\$ 128,500	Montana	\$ 121,155
45	Montana	\$ 136,177	New Hampshire		South Dakota	\$ 126,346	New Hampshire	\$ 120,280
46	West Virginia	\$ 136,000	North Dakota		Montana	\$ 126,131	Massachusetts	\$ 119,837
47	Kansas	\$ 135,905	Rhode Island		West Virginia	\$ 126,000	Kansas	\$ 119,710
48	Kentucky	\$ 135,504	South Dakota		Kentucky	\$ 124,620	Oregon	\$ 118,795
49	South Dakota	\$ 135,270	Vermont		Maine	\$ 121,967	Vermont	\$ 116,468
50	New Mexico	\$ 131,174	West Virginia		Kansas	\$ 120,037	New Mexico	\$ 112,876
51	Maine	\$ 130,136	Wyoming		New Mexico	\$ 118,384	Maine	\$ 99,577
Mean		\$ 169,325	Mean	\$ 163,319	Mean	\$ 152,525		
Median		\$ 168,046	Median	\$ 162,488	Median	\$ 149,605		
Range		\$ 130,136 to \$ 233,888	Range	\$ 124,616 to \$ 219,272	Range	\$ 118,384 to \$ 205,100		

Information in this Survey is collected from designated representatives in each state. The National Center for State Courts has protocols in place to help ensure the accuracy of the data that are collected, analyzed, and ultimately reported.



### Methodology

The *Survey of Judicial Salaries*, published for nearly 30 years by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) with the support of state court administrative offices across the United States, serves as the primary record of compensation for state judicial officers and state court administrators.

This issue of the *Survey of Judicial Salaries* reports salary data as of January 1, 2017. This cutoff date is important because states implement salary changes at various points during the year. However, a standard and unchanging cutoff date must be established to publish salary data in a timely and predictable fashion. Due to recent changes in data-collection protocols and analytics, the NCSC is now able to report changes in state salaries more quickly. This will give policymakers who are considering changes in judicial compensation the most up-to-date salary information at the national level.

This Survey was prepared by the Knowledge and Information Services (KIS) Office of the National Center for State Courts.



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# Judicial Salary Tracker

Interactive online app that presents judicial salary and compensation data in clear visual displays.

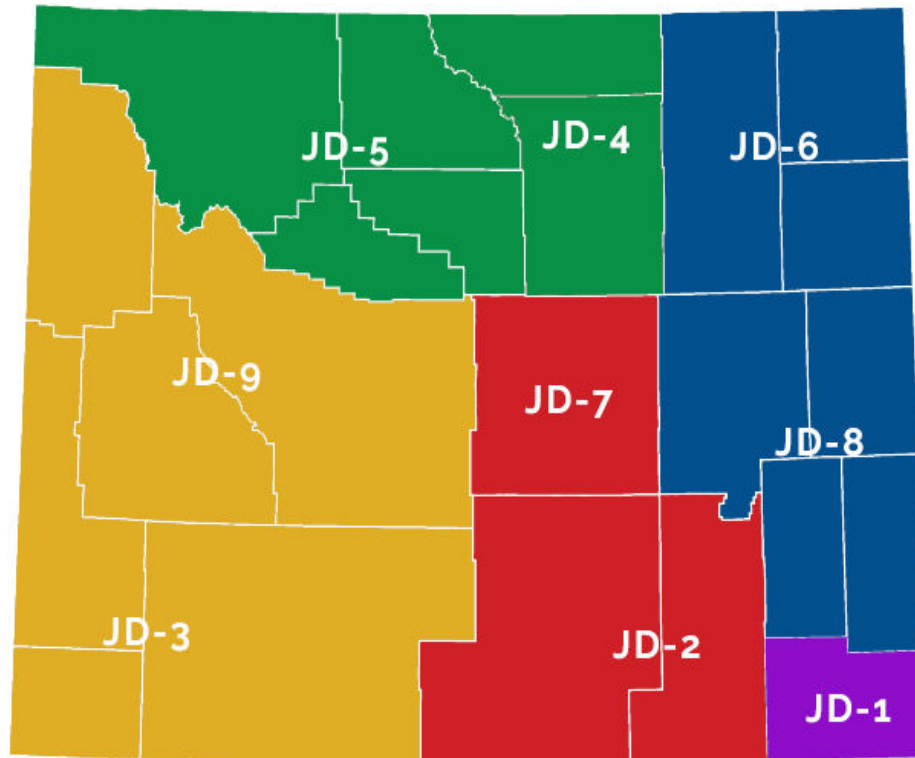
*How does your state go about setting judicial salaries?*

*Who are the people that make salary change recommendations?*

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Judicial Salary Tracker. At the top, there is a blue header with a circular logo on the left containing a dollar sign and a target. To the right of the logo, the text "JUDICIAL SALARY TRACKER" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. On the far right of the header, there is a search bar with a "GO" button and the NCSC logo. Below the header is a navigation bar with five red buttons: "HOME", "SPECIAL REPORTS", "ARCHIVE", "SUBMIT STATE DATA", and "DONATE TO NCSC". The main content area is divided into three sections. On the left, a blue box titled "The Judicial Salary Tracker allows you to:" lists four features: "Compare real and inflation-adjusted salaries over the last decade", "Customize charts to compare cost-of-living adjusted salaries across states", "Organize tables by rank and salaries", and "Get the latest salaries for all judicial officer positions for each state". In the center, there is a map of the United States with four callout boxes: "New Hampshire" (showing salaries for Appellate and Gen. Court Justice at \$172 and Associate Justice at \$160), "Comprehensive State Salaries", "Compare State Salaries", and "Salaries Over A Decade". On the right, a red box titled "THE SALARY SURVEY" contains text about the most recent survey, published twice annually showing salaries as of January 1st and July 1st each year. It mentions the next edition with salary data as of July 1, 2017, will be available in August 2017. It also expresses appreciation for the cooperation of state court AOC partners and provides contact information for Jarret W. Hann.

# Approved Statewide Courtroom Technology Rollout Schedule

July 11, 2017



## Caveats:

Dependent on Increased Spending Authority

Year 6 Only Maintenance & Support / Emergencies

Years 7-12 Renewal Cycle begins in same order (e.g. JD-6, JD-8, etc.)

Yr 1 - FY2019	JD-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gillette</li><li>• Newcastle</li><li>• Sundance</li></ul>	JD-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wheatland</li><li>• Douglas</li><li>• Lusk</li><li>• Torrington</li></ul>	
Yr 2 - FY2020	JD-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worland</li><li>• Thermopolis</li><li>• Basin</li><li>• Lovell</li><li>• Powell</li><li>• Cody</li></ul>	JD-4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sheridan</li><li>• Buffalo</li></ul>	
Yr 3 - FY2021	JD-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Evanston</li><li>• Kemmerer</li><li>• Green River</li><li>• Afton</li></ul>	JD-9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lander</li><li>• Riverton</li><li>• Dubois</li><li>• Pinedale</li><li>• Jackson</li></ul>	
Yr 4 - FY2022	JD-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rawlins</li><li>• Laramie</li></ul>	JD-7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Casper</li></ul>	WSC
Yr 5 - FY2023	JD-1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cheyenne</li></ul>		

**DATE:** July 19, 2017

**TO:** Patty Bennett

**FROM:** Elisa Butler

**RE:** Rule Change – Rule 1 of the Rules for Fees and Costs in Circuit Courts

---

Attached please find changes to Rule 1 of the Rules for Fees and Costs in the Circuit Court. The change was made at the direction of the BJPA from the meeting that occurred on June 12, 2017.

## **RULES FOR FEES AND COSTS FOR CIRCUIT COURTS**

### **Rule 1. Costs and fees in criminal actions.**

(a) Circuit courts shall collect for every criminal/traffic case ~~charge (count)~~ for which a conviction results unless otherwise specifically excepted by statute or court rule, costs in the sum of \$20.00 which shall be assessed as part of the sentence. In addition, for every criminal/traffic case ~~charge (count)~~ for which a conviction results unless otherwise specifically excepted by statute or court rule, a fee of ~~\$20.00~~ \$35.00 shall be imposed, ~~\$10.00~~ \$25.00 of which shall be deposited into the judicial systems automation account established by W.S. § 5-2-120 and \$10.00 of which shall be deposited into the indigent civil legal services account established by § 5-2-121.

(b) ~~For every charge (count) the court shall impose the~~ In addition to the costs and fees provided for under paragraph (a) above, ~~and the court shall impose~~ the victim's compensation fee as required by W.S. § 1-40-119, unless the court determines the defendant has an inability to pay and that no reasonable probability exists that the defendant will have an ability to pay.

## WYOMING RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

### Rule 3. Indictment, Information or Citation.

#### (b) Nature and contents.

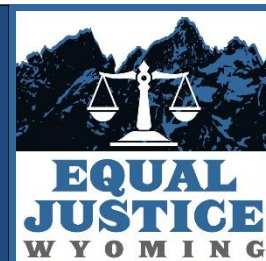
(3) *Citation.* Except as provided in W.S. 14-6-203(d) and (f), a citation may be issued as a charging document for any misdemeanor for which the issuing officer has probable cause to believe was committed by the person to whom the citation was issued. By accepting the citation, the person issued the citation signifies his promise to appear in court on the date and time stated on the citation. A citation may be issued by any peace officer authorized to do so by statute or ordinance. A paper citation shall be signed by the issuing officer but need not be under oath. When a citation is issued by the officer, the electronic transfer of citation information is the electronic equivalent of a written signature of the officer, and thereby signifies the officer has delivered a copy of the citation to the defendant in accordance with W.S. 31-5-1205. The citation must state:

(C) For each citation there shall be only one charge, with a reference to the statute, ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law which the defendant is alleged to have violated;



# Equal Justice Wyoming

## Annual Report to the Wyoming Supreme Court July 2017



*"There can be no equal justice where the kind of trial a man gets depends on the amount of money he has."*

- **Hugo L. Black, U.S. Supreme Court Justice**

### Board of Commissioners

Patrick Day, Outgoing President

Stuart Day, Incoming President

Cathy Duncil, Incoming Vice-President

Jacquelyn Bridgeman, Incoming  
Secretary-Treasurer

Mark Aronowitz

(Term expired June 2017)

Timothy O. Beppler

(Term expired June 2017)

Brad Bonner

Ray Fleming Dinneen

(Term expired June 2017)

Jennifer Hanft

Katie Hogarty (Appointed July 2017)

Mary Johnson (Term expired June 2017)

Tyson Logan (Appointed July 2017)

Tom Lubnau, II

Monica Vozakis (Appointed July 2017)

### Ex Officio Members

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Robert Jarosh

Ronda Munger

### Staff

Angie Dorsch, Executive Director

Liz Hutchinson, Staff Attorney/Pro Bono  
Coordinator

Sheryl Knight, Administrative Assistant

Aaron Varner, Staff Attorney/IT Project  
Manager

Jessica Wales, Administrative Assistant



### Message from the Executive Director

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners and Staff of Equal Justice Wyoming ("Equal Justice"), I am pleased to report on our progress during the 2017 fiscal year ending June 30, 2017.

Pro bono attorneys play an essential role in the delivery of legal services to low-income individuals. This year, two programs utilizing volunteer attorneys greatly expanded access to legal help.

The Volunteer Reference Attorney (VRA) Program is an excellent example of the impact our volunteers have in their communities. Over the past year, with the support of local bar associations and the Access to Justice Commission, we have been able to expand the VRA from a single-site pilot project to a five-county program. In total, the program assisted 336 people in 2017. We look forward

to the continued expansion of the VRA program to new areas of the state so that even more people will have access to legal help.

In partnership with the American Bar Association, we also launched Wyoming Free Legal Answers (WFLA), [wyoming.freelegalanswers.org](http://wyoming.freelegalanswers.org), an online platform that screens applicants for income eligibility and allows eligible individuals to submit questions via a secure portal. Licensed Wyoming attorneys then log in and answer the questions. This expands the availability of legal advice to every corner of the state. In FY 2017, 153 legal questions were answered through the portal.

Because of the continued expansion of the programs and sources of assistance that Equal Justice and our grantees offer, more people than ever received some form of legal help in the past fiscal year. In FY 2017, 4,045 persons received assistance from Equal Justice and the programs we fund.

Although we have greatly expanded legal information and advice through our new programs, we still have a long way to go. The limited resources that are available meet only a fraction of the need. And as uncertainty looms over the fate of federal funding for civil legal aid, it is more important than ever that our state continues our commitment to the promise of equal to justice for all.

**4,045 people served with legal services and self-help assistance in FY 2017**

We would like to thank all of the dedicated volunteers and staff of legal aid programs for their work over the past year. Equal justice for all is impossible without their tireless efforts. In FY 2017, 46 lawyers accepted at least one pro bono case, 54 volunteered at a free legal clinic, 46 served as a VRA, and 17 answered questions on WFLA. In total, 694 people received help from a volunteer lawyer through these programs.

- Angie Dorsch

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## Pro Bono Programs and Initiatives

### Volunteer Reference Attorney Program

In March 2016, Equal Justice launched the Volunteer Reference Attorney (VRA) pilot program in Cheyenne, placing pro bono attorneys in the Laramie County Courthouse to assist self-represented litigants. The attorneys provide legal information, explain court procedures, and assist litigants completing pro se forms. The program quickly became a success, and

**336 individuals assisted by  
46 Volunteer Reference Attorneys**

over the past year, Equal Justice has worked, in cooperation with the Access to Justice Commission and local bar associations, to expand the program to new areas of the state. In November 2016, Equal Justice launched the VRA program in Casper, and then expanded it again in May 2017 to include Laramie, Sheridan, and Rawlins. A reference attorney is available in the courthouses of each of the five counties on the first and third Thursday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The program assisted 336 people in FY 2017.

## Wyoming Free Legal Answers

The new Wyoming Free Legal Answers portal, at [wyoming.freelegalanswers.org](http://wyoming.freelegalanswers.org), was launched in August 2016, in partnership with the American Bar Association, to offer free legal advice online. The online platform screens applicants for income eligibility and allows eligible individuals to submit civil legal questions via a secure portal. Attorneys licensed to practice law in Wyoming are able to register as volunteers on the site. The volunteer attorneys then log in and can answer legal questions that have been submitted by low-income individuals. Equal Justice provides the day-to-day administrative functions for the site, including ensuring that only Wyoming licensed attorneys in good standing are given access to answer questions on the site and ensure that only civil questions are asked. Equal Justice also sends weekly updates to the volunteer lawyers, including supplemental resources for both lawyers and clients.



The portal is an important resource that reaches Wyomingites in rural and underserved areas of the state. It is also an innovative tool that allows flexibility for busy attorneys to contribute pro bono services anytime, anywhere they have an internet connection. Since its launch, pro bono attorneys have answered 153 questions submitted on the portal. 68% of the advice received through the portal was in response to family law questions.

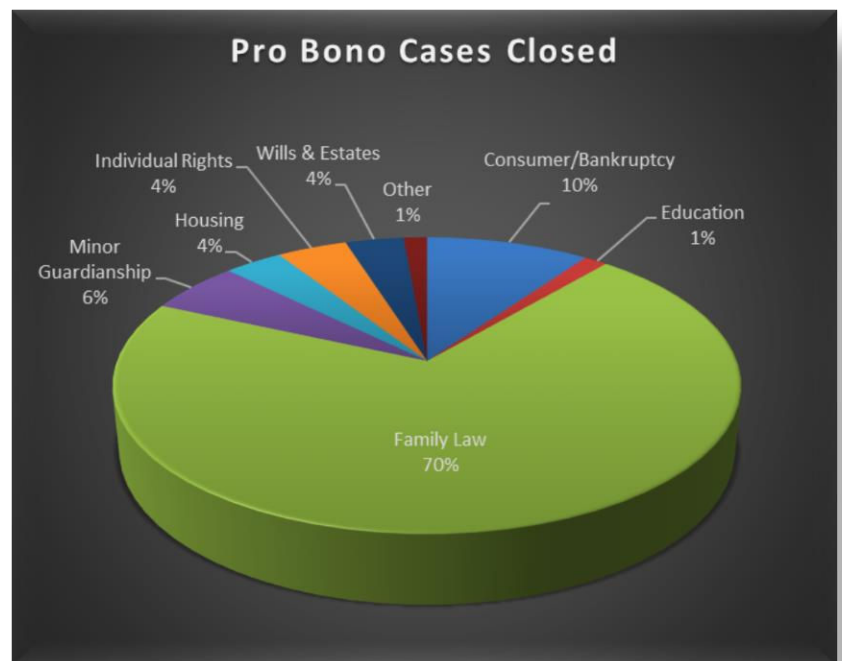
**153 legal questions answered by  
17 volunteer attorneys on  
[wyoming.freelegalanswers.org](http://wyoming.freelegalanswers.org)**

## Volunteer Lawyers Program

Equal Justice manages the statewide Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) in partnership with the Wyoming State Bar. Over the past year, we continued our work to increase pro bono legal services. We strive to provide resources and support to encourage and enable attorneys to undertake pro bono legal services for low-income clients. The types of assistance available through the VLP ranges from advice and brief services to full-representation of clients. Monthly clinics are held in Cheyenne with periodic clinics held in other locations throughout the state in collaboration with local bar associations. Equal Justice also held a clinic in collaboration with the UW law school's Equal Justice Club and the Downtown Clinic, a healthcare clinic in Laramie. Equal Justice is in the process of launching regular clinics at that location.

Not all applications that are accepted by Equal Justice can be placed with an attorney. The requests for assistance far outpace the number of available pro bono attorneys. However, 142 cases were closed during the FY 2017, and an additional 63 cases remain open, are placed with a volunteer attorney, and are receiving legal services. Therefore, a total

of 205 legal matters were handled during the FY 2017. An additional 15 applications that were submitted remain open awaiting possible placement with a pro bono attorney.



**205 cases handled by pro bono attorneys**  
**46 attorneys accepted at least one pro bono case**  
**54 attorneys volunteered at a free legal clinic**

## Training and Support for Pro Bono and Legal Aid Attorneys

Equal Justice holds free CLEs throughout the year to provide training on the areas of law that are the most common among our target population. We offered three live, in-person CLEs and nine live webinars in FY 2017. Four of the CLEs were made available specifically as training for legal aid attorneys and the others were available for all attorneys. We had a total of 1,147 attendees at our CLEs. The webinars

**1,147 attendees at Equal Justice sponsored CLEs**

we host are archived and available on our Pro Bono Portal for our volunteer attorneys to access at any time. There are a variety of resources on the Portal, such as sample pleadings and toolkits. Equal Justice also has a pool of volunteer mentor attorneys who are willing to mentor less experienced attorneys taking a pro bono case. In addition to these resources, Equal Justice provides professional liability insurance to cover our volunteers for any case or activity they undertake through our program. We hope these resources and support make it easier for attorneys to provide pro bono legal services.

## Volunteer Attorney and Law Firm Receive Pro Bono Awards

The Cheyenne law firm of Woodhouse Roden Nethercott, LLC received the Wyoming State Bar's 2016 Pro Bono Award for Legal Services for Indigent Clients. The firm regularly accepts pro bono cases through the Volunteer Lawyers Program, as well as volunteering as a firm to provide legal advice at Equal Justice's free legal advice clinics.

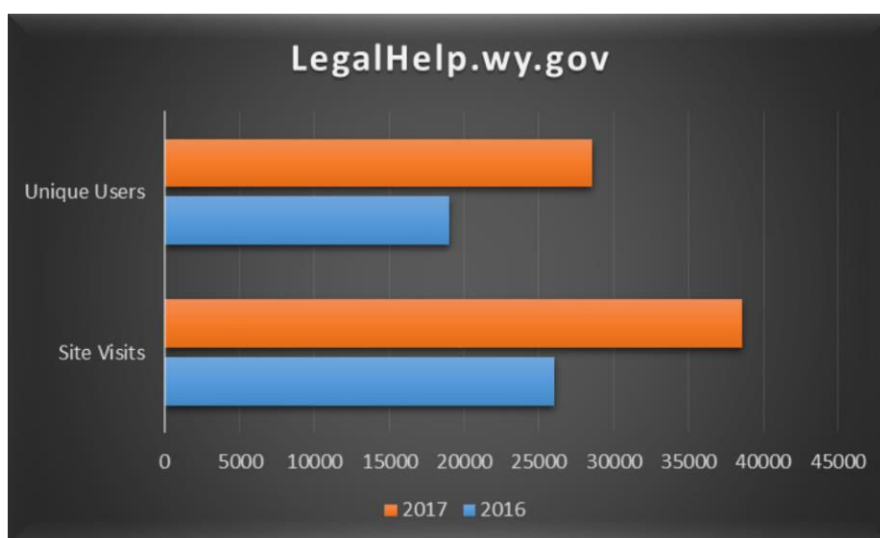
In addition, solo attorney, Billie Ruth Edwards, posthumously received the Wyoming State Bar's Pro Bono Award in 2016. Billie helped numerous pro bono clients and continued to work on cases for the Volunteer Lawyers Program until just weeks before her death. She was also a mentor attorney for other volunteers. Her dedication and passion for helping the less fortunate will always be remembered by the staff of Equal Justice and members of the Wyoming State Bar.

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## Self-Help Resources and Legal Information

### [www.LegalHelp.wy.gov](http://www.LegalHelp.wy.gov)

Equal Justice launched our legal information website in November 2012. Since that time, we have continually expanded the site and updated the content to provide information, resources, videos, online classrooms, and forms that address the most common civil legal issues faced by our target population. Traffic on the website continues to steadily increase with an especially large increase over last year. In FY 2017,



**38,549 site visits and 28,558 unique users**

there were 38,549 visits to the site, compared to about 26,000 in 2016, which is a 47% increase in traffic to the site. The site was visited by 28,558 unique users in 2017, compared to about 19,000 unique users in 2016, a 48% increase. The website is an important tool that allows the public to understand their legal rights and access legal information in plain language.

## LiveChat

Although there are a limited number of self-help centers and Volunteer Reference Attorney locations where people can get help finding appropriate legal resources in person, many in Wyoming are not near in-person assistance. In order to help people find the information they need remotely, Equal Justice's website has a LiveChat feature that can help people navigate our expansive website to find the legal resources they need. The LiveChat is somewhat like a remote self-help center in that it doesn't

**275 visitors to [www.legalhelp.wy.gov](http://www.legalhelp.wy.gov) received assistance from a trained LiveChat operator**

offer legal advice, but instead helps people navigate to appropriate information and resources. In FY 2017, 275 visitors to the website received assistance from a trained LiveChat operator.

The majority of the LiveChat volunteers are law students. We also utilize an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) member to help provide training on the LiveChat software and manage the volunteers' schedules.

## Wyoming Interactive Self-Help Center

The Wyoming Interactive Self-Help Center (WISE), at [wise.courts.state.wy.us](http://wise.courts.state.wy.us), is an extensive undertaking with the long-term goal that all court approved forms can be filled in using an automated interview. Divorce forms are currently available on the site. The program walks users through a series of questions and, using the answers the user provides, generates legal documents that can be filed in court to obtain a divorce. The program works similar to TurboTax and helps reduce the time it takes to complete the forms, and increases accuracy of the forms pro se litigants submit to the court. Based on changes in the law, the online forms and interview are currently being updated along with the software used for the document automation. We are in the testing phase of the updated divorce forms and hope to launch several new automated pro se packets over the next year. In the past year, 864 new users created an account. Of those users, 271 used an automated interview and 124 printed court documents that were created using WISE.

**864 new users created an account  
271 used automated interviews  
124 printed completed court forms**

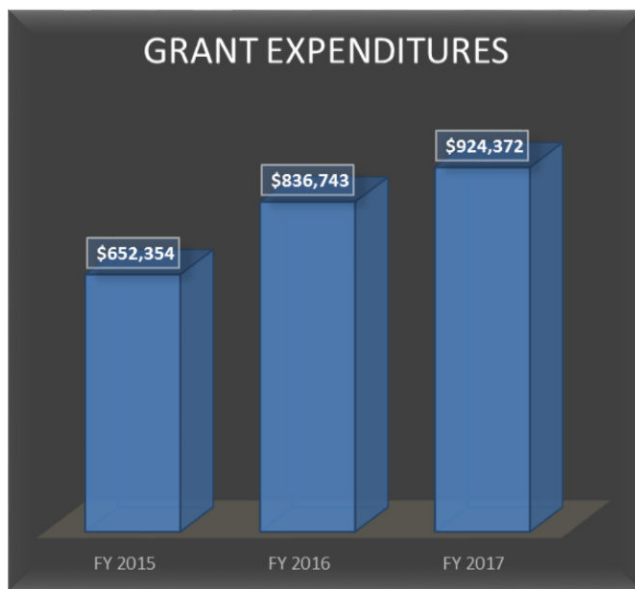


## Outreach

The staff of Equal Justice also engages in outreach to help people know their rights and to increase public awareness of available legal resources and programs. Staff held eight outreach events at various organizations, such as CLIMB Wyoming, Dads Making a Difference, Homeless Veterans Stand Down, and presentations at public libraries. We also partnered with the UW College of Law Civil Legal Services Clinic to hold an outreach at the Salvation Army. Through these outreach events, about 268 individuals learned about legal rights, available resources, and how to address their legal issues. The staff also provides outreach to social service providers and community partners. For instance, Equal Justice staff provided a training for public library staff to better familiarize librarians with legal resources that are available for library patrons with legal questions. Our staff will continue with these outreach efforts.

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## Supporting Statewide Civil Legal Services through Grants



The mission of Equal Justice to provide a statewide delivery system for civil legal aid is largely carried out through our grants to legal service organizations. We are the largest single source of funding for civil legal services in Wyoming. In FY 2017, we provided \$924,372 in grants. Our grantees used the funds to provide legal assistance to eligible individuals throughout the state on a wide variety of civil matters. 3,076 eligible clients received legal services through the grant programs we fund.

**\$924,372 provided in grants**

## Legal Aid of Wyoming

Legal Aid of Wyoming is a statewide legal service provider. Equal Justice awarded three grants to Legal Aid of Wyoming that have expanded legal services to underserved areas of the state.

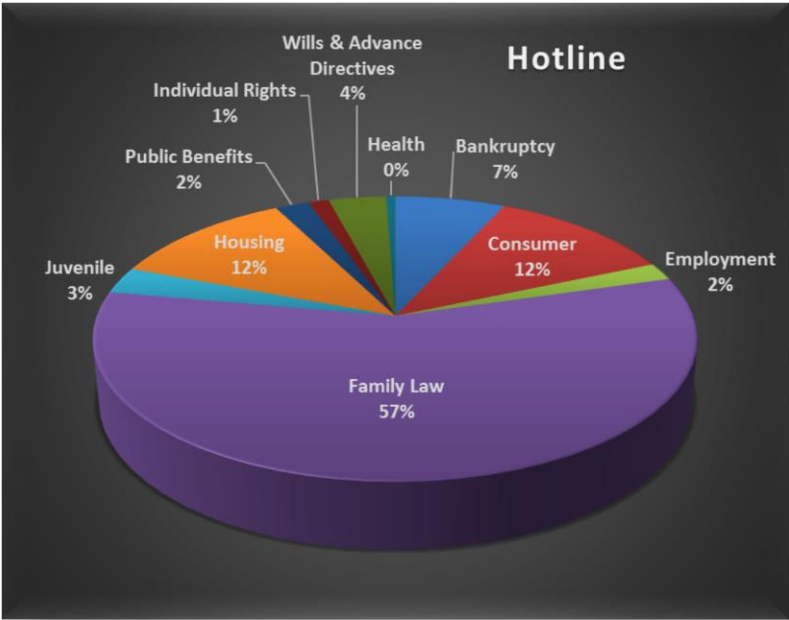
### Statewide Legal Advice and Intake Hotline Grant

Equal Justice has partnered with Legal Aid of Wyoming to ensure individuals across the state have access to the advice of a lawyer through a hotline, which has been in operation since November 2012. Legal Aid of Wyoming operates the hotline Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The

hotline is a lifeline for many people in rural areas that have limited ability to go to a legal aid office. The hotline number is widely distributed by court clerks and librarians to people who are looking for legal advice and assistance.

The hotline is an effective and efficient way to provide advice and answers to legal questions across

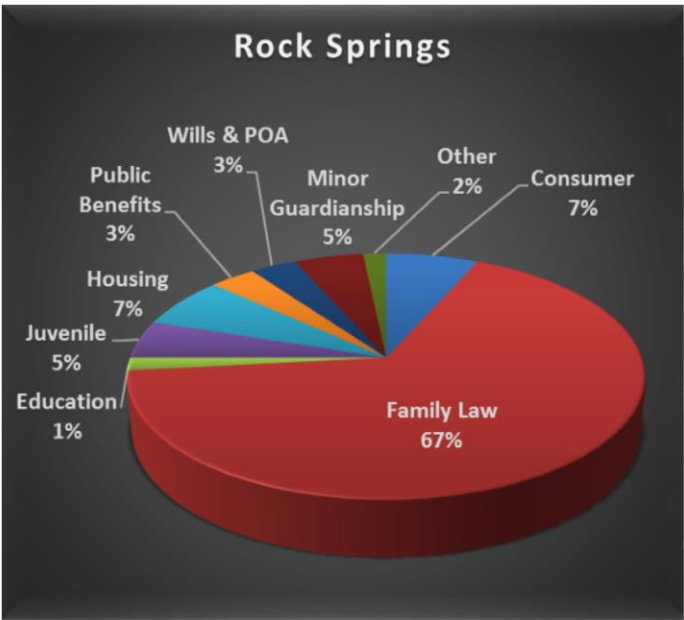
the entire state, including rural and underserved areas. In addition to providing legal advice, the hotline is also a central point to apply for legal services. Clients are screened for eligibility before any advice or services are provided, and an application is then taken. The hotline assists people from every county in Wyoming.



**2,604 callers received legal help from a hotline attorney**

### Rock Springs (Southwest Wyoming) Grant

In June 2013, Equal Justice partnered with Legal Aid of Wyoming, awarding a grant specifically to expand services to the southwest corner of Wyoming to open a legal aid office in that area of the state for the first time. Since the launch of the program, Equal Justice has continued to provide the necessary funds to maintain a full-time attorney in Rock Springs to serve Sweetwater, Lincoln, and Uinta Counties. The office space for the attorney is generously donated by the Sweetwater County Family Justice Center, which is a one-stop help center for victims of family violence. This partnership with the local community helps make it possible to expand services while leveraging the limited grant funds that are available.

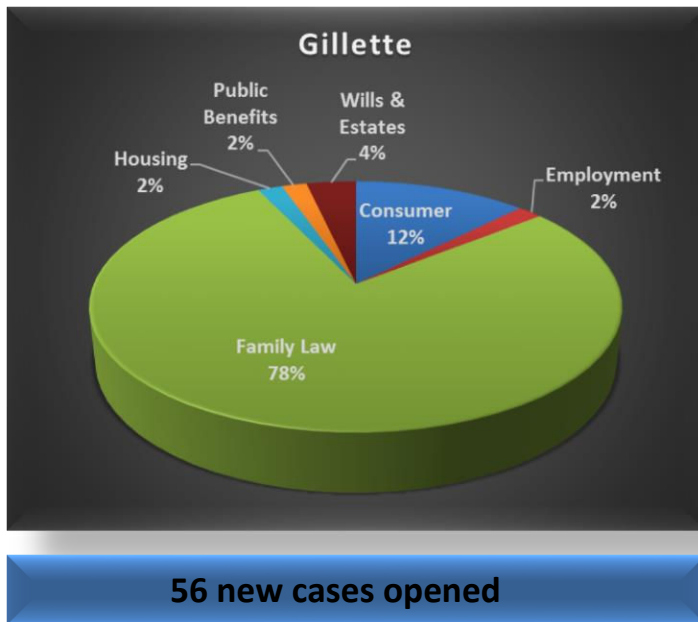


**60 new cases opened**



## Gillette (Northeast Wyoming) Grant

The northeast corner of Wyoming had never had a legal aid office until September 2013, when a grant from Equal Justice provided the resources for a full-time legal aid attorney in Gillette for the first time.

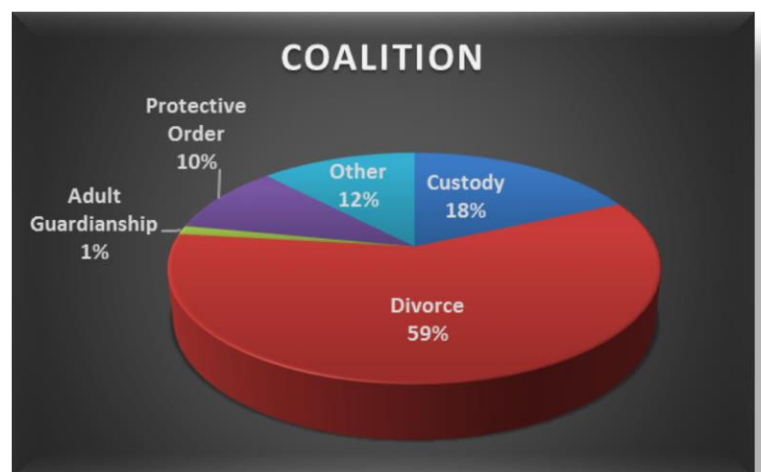


Equal Justice focused on the successful model of the Rock Springs expansion to leverage limited resources. Equal Justice approached the Council of Community Services in Gillette, who agreed to donate the office space for the attorney's office. The Council of Community Services is a one-stop shop for a variety of social services for low-income individuals. An onsite attorney adds to the comprehensive set of available services. The attorney provides services to Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston Counties.

## Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

The Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault ("the Coalition") is a statewide legal aid provider serving victims of abuse. The services the Coalition provides are vital to protect victims from further harm. The services they offer go beyond getting protective orders. The Coalition provides holistic services to help victims with all issues related to the abuse, including cases such as divorce or custody, which help protect victims from further abuse.

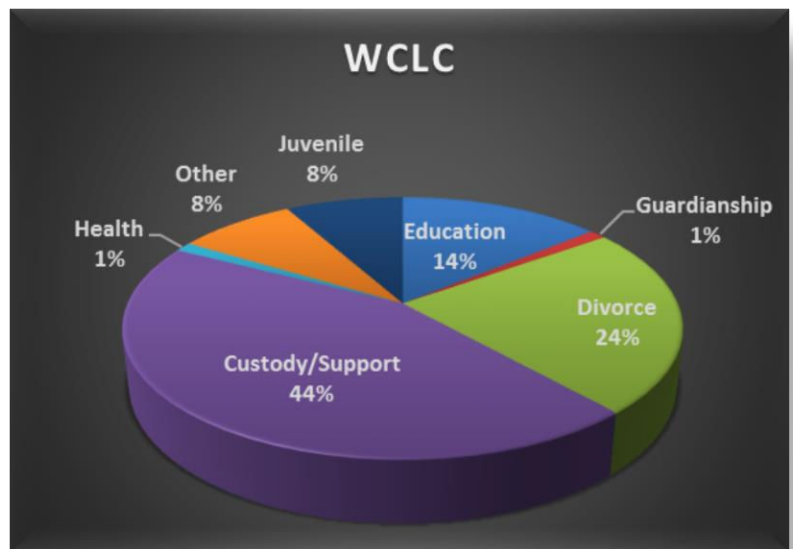
Equal Justice has provided substantial funding to support the work of the Coalition since 2012. The funds have expanded the availability of legal services and support the opening of a satellite office in Cody that was opened in 2016. We fund two full-time attorneys and a portion of a third attorney. The Coalition opened 45 new cases and handled an additional 37 which remained open from the previous year.



**82 cases were handled in FY 2017**

## Wyoming Children's Law Center

The Wyoming Children's Law Center (WCLC) provides legal services in cases involving children and families in a variety of areas of law. For example, the WCLC provides advocacy to ensure children receive special education services to which they are entitled, represents children with special needs, and handles family law cases. Last fiscal year, the WCLC hired an additional full-time attorney, which was made possible with the grant funds from Equal Justice. WCLC opened 22 new cases in FY 2017 and handled an additional 64 cases that were still pending from the previous year.

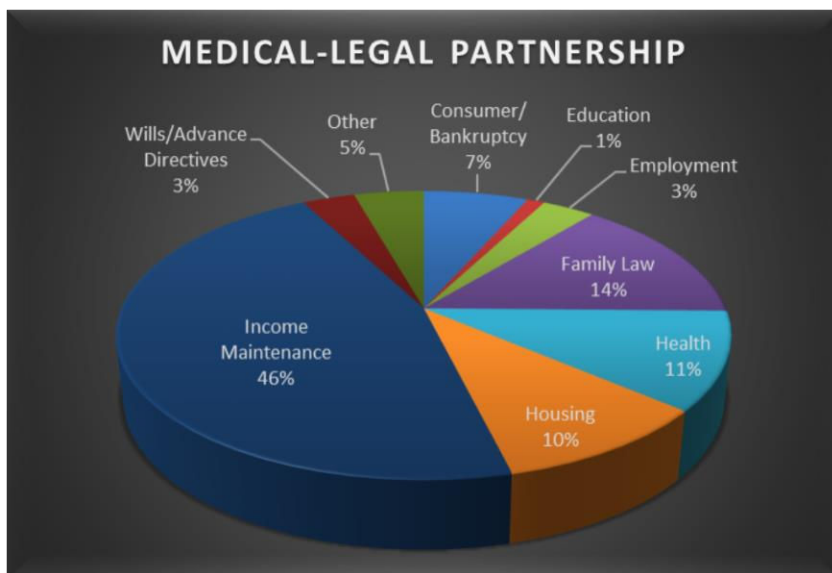


**86 cases handled in FY 2017**

## Laramie County Community Partnership

The Laramie County Community Partnership ("LCCP") received a grant from Equal Justice to launch Wyoming's first Medical-Legal Partnership ("MLP"). MLPs are quickly expanding across the country to

address health-harming legal issues. The MLP addresses a wide range of legal issues ranging from legal help to have a landlord address mold that is causing asthma attacks to helping clients receive benefits under their health insurance or public benefits to which they are entitled in order to obtain and pay for medical care or necessary medications. The MLP places a lawyer into the medical team to identify and address patients' legal needs to improve their health. The MLP

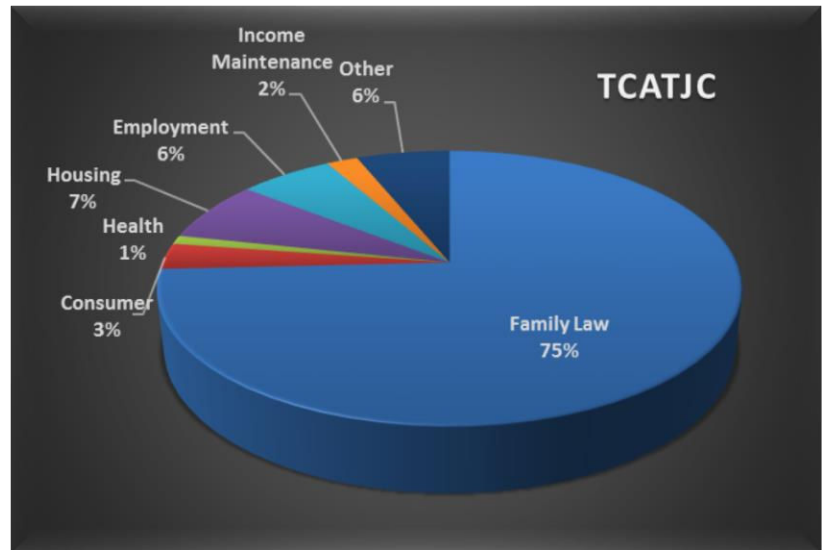


**91 new cases opened in FY 2017**

entered into a partnership with HealthWorks clinic in Cheyenne, but also receives referrals from other health care providers. The MLP fully launched in September 2016 when they began taking cases. Since its launch, the MLP provided services to address 91 legal matters.

## Teton County Access to Justice Center

The Teton County Access to Justice Center (“TCATJC”) was launched in 2012 with funding from Equal Justice. The TCATJC is housed in space donated by Teton County and shares the space with the county law library. The TCATJC provides legal information and self-help services to Teton, Sublette, and Lincoln Counties. Eligible applicants may also apply for legal representation through a panel of private contract attorneys who provide legal services at no charge to the client. The services are paid at a reduced rate from the Equal Justice grant funds. The TCATJC opened 97 new cases for services from an attorney and had two cases that remained open from last year that were still being handled.



**99 cases handled in FY 2017**

## Summary

Equal Justice continually strives to leverage our limited resources to provide legal services to as many low-income individuals as possible. Over the past year we have been successful in utilizing volunteers to help expand services, but we are meeting only a fraction of the legal needs of the low-income in our state. Too many people are forced to appear in court without an attorney because they simply cannot afford a lawyer. Although we hope to make it easier for self-represented individuals to navigate the civil justice system, we will also look for additional ways to expand full-representation for more individuals.

We also made progress this year with the launch of a new online platform for legal assistance. In the coming years, we will continue to look towards technology as a way to bridge the divide in access to legal service in rural and underserved areas as we strive to meet our mission to expand legal services throughout the state.

## Financial Summary

The revenue generated from filing fees which provide the funding for Equal Justice decreased in the 2017 fiscal year. In the coming years, Equal Justice will continue to closely monitor any changes in the special revenue that funds our programs. We have funds available to meet our obligations and remain within our spending authority.

The largest change in spending from the 2016 fiscal year was an increase of \$87,629 in grant expenditures. This accounts for the majority of the increased spending in the 2017 fiscal year.

## Additional Revenue

In 2015, Equal Justice also began receiving additional funding from the increase in pro hac vice fees paid by out of state attorneys. The Wyoming State Bar increased the fees by \$200 with 100% of the increased fee going to Equal Justice Wyoming to help support civil legal services. The fees generate approximately \$30,000 per year and are earmarked to be used for grants. We sincerely appreciate the State Bar's support for access to justice. As we continue to add new resources, programs, and initiatives, we will also continue to explore additional funding to support our work.

## Summary of Expenditures

Salaries and Benefits	\$346,025
-----------------------	-----------

Office Expense and Travel	\$26,672
---------------------------	----------

Telecommunications	\$3,122
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### Grants

Legal Aid of Wyoming	\$393,040
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Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	\$306,419
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Wyoming Children's Law Center	\$69,500
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Teton County Access to Justice Center	\$95,371
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Laramie County Community Partnership	\$60,042
--------------------------------------	----------

Special Services	\$2,649
------------------	---------

<b>Total*</b>	<b>\$1,302,840</b>
---------------	--------------------

\*Total includes the June 2017 grant expenditures which were paid in July 2017.

**Vision** - Equal access to justice for the people of Wyoming.

**Mission** - Serving the legal needs of low-income persons of Wyoming through community engagement, education, information, and expansion of legal services throughout the state.

**Equal Justice Wyoming**

**2300 Capitol Ave. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002**

**[www.equaljustice.wy.gov](http://www.equaljustice.wy.gov)**