

2011 Wyoming State Bar Quality of Life Survey Results

Response Rate = 485 (31%)

CAREER / JOB SATISFACTION

1. More often than not, I would describe my practice as: (check all that apply)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Personally fulfilling	69.7%	333
Personally unfulfilling	17.4%	83
Professionally challenging	83.1%	397
Professionally unchallenging	4.0%	19
Financially rewarding	54.0%	258
Financially unrewarding	23.2%	111
Answered Question		478
Skipped Question		7

2. I am a productive member of my community due in great part to the fact that I am an attorney.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	86.5%	416
False	13.5%	65
Answered Question		481
Skipped Question		4

3. I believe that because I am an attorney, I should hold myself to a higher standard than other members of the public.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	86.5%	416
False	13.5%	65
Answered Question		481
Skipped Question		4

4. I am personally proud to be a Wyoming attorney.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	94.2%	452
False	5.8%	28
Answered Question		480
Skipped Question		5

5. Overall, what is the public's image of attorneys?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Positive	15.9%	77
Neutral	30.2%	146
Negative	53.8%	260
Answered Question		483
Skipped Question		2

6. The negative image of attorneys affects me personally and/or professionally. (Only those who responded “negative” to question #5 were given an opportunity to respond.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	61.5%	160
False	38.5%	100
Answered Question		260
Skipped Question		225

7. The negative image of attorneys is well-deserved. (Only those who responded “negative” to question #5 were given an opportunity to respond.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	36.7%	95
False	63.3%	164
Answered Question		259
Skipped Question		226

8. The negative image of attorneys is well-deserved in Wyoming. (Only those who responded “negative” to question #5 were given an opportunity to respond.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	18.5%	48
False	81.5%	212
Answered Question		260
Skipped Question		225

9. Based on my practice experiences, the following percentage of Wyoming attorneys are deserving of a positive public image.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 10%	0.6%	3
10 – 25%	4.7%	22
26 – 50%	7.7%	36
51 – 75%	44.3%	208
76 – 99%	42.3%	199
100%	0.4%	2
Answered Question		470
Skipped Question		15

10. I am concerned about the following issues and how they affect the practice of law in Wyoming. Please rate the following issues from 1 – 10 (1= most important; 10 = least important):

	Most Important									Least Important	Rating Average	Response Count
Low salaries	9.9% (45)	11.9% (54)	16.6% (75)	10.6% (48)	17.9% (81)	4.0% (18)	7.7% (35)	8.6% (39)	5.3% (24)	7.5% (34)	4.85	453
Job stress	26.2% (120)	25.1% (115)	24.0% (110)	8.3% (38)	7.6% (35)	3.1% (14)	0.9% (4)	2.4% (11)	1.5% (7)	0.9% (4)	2.86	458
Negative public perception of the legal profession	6.3% (29)	13.8% (64)	20.5% (95)	17.3% (80)	13.8% (64)	8.2% (38)	6.9% (32)	6.3% (29)	3.9% (18)	3.0% (14)	4.47	463
The practice of law is becoming less of a profession and more of a business.	9.2% (42)	19.2% (88)	20.5% (94)	11.3% (52)	15.9% (73)	4.8% (22)	5.2% (24)	7.2% (33)	3.9% (18)	2.8% (13)	4.20	459
Increased competition from out-of-state firms	3.7% (17)	5.9% (27)	7.5% (34)	8.3% (38)	14.0% (64)	8.1% (37)	12.7% (58)	14.3% (65)	9.6% (44)	15.8% (72)	6.34	455
Unauthorized practice of law	4.4% (20)	7.0% (32)	7.7% (35)	7.5% (34)	13.4% (61)	8.6% (39)	10.8% (49)	12.1% (55)	14.1% (64)	14.5% (66)	6.34	455
Pro se litigants	3.6% (16)	4.2% (19)	6.7% (30)	7.3% (33)	15.6% (70)	7.3% (33)	10.0% (45)	12.7% (57)	14.9% (67)	17.8% (80)	6.66	450
Escalating costs of maintaining practice	13.6% (61)	21.1% (95)	22.2% (100)	10.2% (46)	12.4% (56)	4.0% (18)	4.2% (19)	3.8% (17)	3.8% (17)	4.7% (21)	3.90	450
Decreased civility among attorneys	16.9% (76)	20.8% (94)	14.9% (67)	15.7% (71)	11.8% (53)	4.2% (19)	6.0% (27)	4.0% (18)	3.1% (14)	2.7% (12)	3.78	451
Other (see below)												29
Answered Question												467
Skipped Question												18

Other:

- Low level of knowledge, skills, preparation & responsibility of attorneys
- Outsourcing Legal Jobs to India
- very weak and ineffective bar association
- The public perception that they can "do it themselves" and that lawyers are unnecessary
- Poor treatment of younger attorneys by older attorneys

Attorneys not making their employers follow the law and const

Top down efforts to mandate "charity" in the form of pro bono requirements. Over reach in forcing compliant use of tech.

perjury; civil litigation cost and time

Lack of ability of attorneys to negotiate settlements without mediators; Inflation of value of claims to Plaintiff and effect on ability to fairly settle cases; Poor draftsmanship in attorney work product; Filing of frivolous/thoughtless motions

Improper Conduct by Bar Counsel--many have experienced this and it is hurting our profession

Ethics of other attorneys

The legal system is less about justice than desired outcomes

I am now contending with chiropractors who have ties with large PI firms in SLC who routinely refer patients to them and wonder if this is unethical

The never-ending march of onerous rules imposed by the courts

I don't like mandatory CLE. It is part of the escalating costs of maintaining a practice. The costs are way out of line(in both time and money) in comparison to the benefits. Lawyers who want to be competent generally have no trouble doing so for two reasons: access to research is a piece of cake compared to former times, and one can always sign up for a good CLE on a voluntary basis. Requiring a certain number of hours results in the CLE providers getting rich. The fact that CLE is mandatory greatly increases the cost and also the likelihood that attorneys will sign up for cheaper ones they have no use for just to get the required hours, thus to a greater extent than most would admit to, frustrating the purposes of the system while wasting time and money that could be put to good use. Your survey asks about job stress. Well, many a lawyer under the stress of a deadline has taken his file to a CLE and basically prejudiced his work product because of working during the CLE and of course getting nothing about of the CLE. There are a lot of good reasons to get rid of mandatory CLE.

inconsistent, unpredictable judicial decisions

The difficulties of getting lawyers to practice in rural settings

Counsel's flagrant failure to follow rules of procedure and decorum

In my experience, the legal system is not about justice.

Ultra conservative attitudes of Supreme Court and Judges prevent fair treatment

Lack of support or assistance from the bar association with issues/questions regarding professional responsibility that arise in the course of practice.

Creeping acceptance of mediocrity in the profession

Lack of caring about the law
 Attorneys who do not control/command respect from their clients
 Partisanship/politicization of legal issues
 dishonest and incompetent attorneys
 outmoded rules
 Increasing technology requirements
 need for better e-filing

11. I do/would encourage a child of mine to become an attorney.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	54.5%	259
False	36.6%	174
N/A	8.8%	42
Answered Question		475
Skipped Question		10

12. If I could turn back time, I would still choose to attend law school and enter the practice of law.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	69.9%	332
False	30.1%	143
Answered Question		475
Skipped Question		10

PROFESSIONALISM / PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

13. The relationships among attorneys have become more adversarial, and civility, courtesy and collegiality are declining in Wyoming.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	57.3%	260
False	42.7%	194
Answered Question		454
Skipped Question		31

14. I have experienced/observed discrimination against some attorneys in Wyoming because of their:

	True	False	Response Count
Gender	32.2% (148)	67.8% (312)	460
Race of Religion	9.6% (44)	90.4% (412)	456
Age/lack of experience	45.1% (206)	54.9% (251)	457
Answered Question			462
Skipped Question			23

15. What entity should be primarily responsible for improving common courtesy, professionalism and civility among attorneys?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Wyoming State Bar	15.0%	70
Wyoming courts	14.5%	68
The law schools	4.7%	22
Individual attorneys	65.8%	308
Answered Question		468
Skipped Question		17

16. There have been occasions when I have refrained or considered refraining from reporting unethical conduct to the Wyoming State Bar because I believe that no action would be taken to correct the conduct?

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	24.5%	112
False	75.5%	346
Answered Question		458
Skipped Question		27

17. There have been occasions when I have refrained or considered refraining from utilizing the provisions of Rule 11 because I believe the judiciary will not enforce it.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	34.3%	159
False	30.9%	143
N/A	34.8%	161
Answered Question		463
Skipped Question		22

18. There have been occasions when I have refrained or considered refraining from reporting unethical conduct or invoking Rule 11 because of the small size of the Wyoming State Bar.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	28.6%	133
False	51.0%	237
N/A	20.4%	95
Answered Question		465
Skipped Question		20

19. Lawyers today are not sufficiently trained to go directly into private practice.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	70.7%	325
False	29.3%	135
Answered Question		460
Skipped Question		25

20. A required period of “mentorship” in the first year of being admitted to the Wyoming State Bar would assist in raising the competency of the legal profession.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	77.8%	360
False	22.2%	103
Answered Question		463
Skipped Question		22

21. Our society and/or the practice itself require attorneys to focus too much time and effort on minimizing their own professional liability.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	47.7%	219
False	52.3%	240
Answered Question		459
Skipped Question		26

22. Adequate training and/or education exists within our bar to assist attorneys with the business side of maintaining a healthy practice.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	38.7%	172
False	61.3%	273
Answered Question		445
Skipped Question		40

23. Before making a referral to another attorney, I always consider whether that attorney has malpractice insurance.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	21.0%	96
False	79.0%	361
Answered Question		457
Skipped Question		28

24. I would like to see the following made mandatory for all lawyers in Wyoming:

	True	False	Response Count
A specific number of pro bono hours	17.7% (82)	82.3% (382)	464
A minimum amount of malpractice insurance	44.5% (206)	55.5% (257)	463
More CLE hours on an annual basis	6.7% (31)	93.3% (429)	460
Answered Question			466
Skipped Question			19

FINANCIAL SATISFACTION

25. I believe the financial compensation I receive as an attorney is satisfactory considering the:

	True	False	Response Count
Effort I expend to perform my work	58.2% (265)	41.8% (190)	455
Educational requirements for licensure	57.3% (260)	42.7% (194)	454
My years of experience	61.0% (275)	39.0% (176)	451
Answered Question			456
Skipped Question			29

26. I believe that associates are treated fairly and are adequately compensated for the number of hours they work.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	27.5%	126
False	24.0%	110
Don't know	48.5%	222
Answered Question		458
Skipped Question		27

27. If I had the opportunity to earn more money practicing in a state other than Wyoming for the same amount of work I perform now, I would relocate.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	23.5%	106
False	76.5%	345
Answered Question		451
Skipped Question		34

28. If I had the opportunity to get out of the practice of law and maintain my current financial situation, I would.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	57.2%	261
False	42.8%	195
Answered Question		456
Skipped Question		29

29. The financial rewards of practice in Wyoming are sufficient to counterbalance the personal impact of the practice of law.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	46.8%	209
False	53.2%	238
Answered Question		447
Skipped Question		38

30. I would be more satisfied with my practice if I was financially able to do more pro bono work.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	33.3%	150
False	66.7%	300
Answered Question		450
Skipped Question		35

STRESS MANAGEMENT / BALANCE OF LIFE

31. The amount of work-related stress in my life is unhealthy for me.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	61.0%	278
False	39.0%	178
Answered Question		456
Skipped Question		29

32. I have developed effective ways of dealing with the stress of my profession.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	71.5%	326
False	28.5%	130
Answered Question		456
Skipped Question		29

33. There have been times when my family has been adversely affected by my work-related stress.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	80.1%	367
False	19.9%	91
Answered Question		458
Skipped Question		27

34. The stress I feel from my profession has caused me to use alcohol or drugs.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	23.7%	108
False	76.3%	348
Answered Question		456
Skipped Question		29

35. The stress I feel from my profession has caused me to abuse alcohol or drugs.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	5.9%	27
False	94.1%	427
Answered Question		454
Skipped Question		31

36. I am able to balance my work life and personal life to my satisfaction.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	64.0%	292
False	36.0%	164
Answered Question		456
Skipped Question		29

37. The time demands of my practice negatively interfere with my family and/or personal life.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	54.6%	248
False	45.4%	206
Answered Question		454
Skipped Question		31

38. I have had to cancel a vacation with my family at least once in the last three years because of my work demands.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	43.1%	196
False	56.9%	259
Answered Question		455
Skipped Question		30

BENEFITS

39. I currently participate in the Wyoming Lawyers Health Benefit Plan.

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	7.7%	35
False	92.3%	421
Answered Question		456
Skipped Question		29

40. I offer the Wyoming Lawyers Health Benefit Plan to my staff. (*Only those who responded "True" to question #39 were given an opportunity to respond.*)

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	86.1%	31
False	13.9%	5
Answered Question		36
Skipped Question		449

41. I do **not** have health insurance. (Only those who responded “False” to question #39 were given an opportunity to respond.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
True	8.8%	37
False	91.2%	384
Answered Question		421
Skipped Question		64

42. I do not participate in the Wyoming Lawyers Health Benefit Plan because: (Only those who responded “False” to question #39 will be given an opportunity to respond.)

	Response Percent	Response Count
My family and I are covered under my spouse’s plan.	28.1%	76
I am a state/federal employee and am covered under my employer’s policy.	47.4%	128
Cost of premiums	17.4%	47
Negative claims or customer service experiences in the past	0.4%	1
Coverage is not satisfactory.	13.0%	35
Other (see below)		139
Answered Question		270
Skipped Question		215

Other:

- I have no employees so am not qualified
- I am a sole practitioner and not eligible
- Employer has another plan
- I am a county employee and am covered under my employer's policy.
- Medicare
- NO TIME TO FOCUS ON THE OPTIONS

I am a solo attorney so I don't qualify

On Medicare

Not available

I have not yet made the change, but intend to do so.

just looking into it

DUH? Solo practitioners are excluded. You ignored this/omitted this from your choices. You neglected to advertise this fact prior to the Plan's inception. It's frustrating.

Better insurance through employer

haven't had a chance to apply yet but heard issues (cost and coverage) still intend to look at though

I am also covered under Medicare

I'm on Medicare

Have not looked into plan. Have carried own insurance though different provider.

I am a one person law firm with no full time employees.

I have other insurance

age. medicare

Spouse Health Problems make it impossible to go back to my provider if I change. Cannot risk that pre-existing condition

The cost and coverages are the same as blue cross

low number of participants

Still have a policy locked in place until Sept; plan to seek it then.

Moved from State plan to medicare coverage

Employer policy

Privacy concerns

My firm has a policy.

very few covered providers in our area

Already have satisfactory coverage.

I do not want to participate in anything related to the Wyoming State Bar.

Don't Qualify - sole practitioner

don't want to change from current carrier for fear the WLHBP will not continue to exist and I will then be unable to secure coverage at all or at the cost at which I currently pay.

covered by employer
medicare
uncertainty about the plan's "pre-existing condition" exclusion and reluctance to lose coverage for current conditions
Medicare eligible and enrolled
firm coverage
Have other insurance
Do not qualify with only one employee
solo and no employees
I have adequate insurance elsewhere
Covered by a municipal plan
Covered by Employer Plan
I am satisfied with present provider
Covered under firm plan
Insured through my employer
I am a solo practitioner and not eligible.
My firm offers another option
We have other health insurance
I am not eligible as a solo practitioner
My firm participates in another plan
Still considering whether to change
just need to get around to it
Medicare
I do not currently qualify to participate
Firm has another plan
medicare
does not cover individual attorneys
medicare
I have other insurance that I prefer
I need at least two employees to participate

have my own coverage

I don't have a job.

covered by individual plan - doing a new group plan creates issues - all could be solved if WSB had a single group plan rather than requiring each office to establish a separate group

My firm has not enrolled in it.

Eligible for V.A.

Have office policy.

Office already has a group plan

solo practitioners should be covered or the coverage should be available to them

I have excellent coverage as a retired military officer.

not available for solo practitioner

The Office has a plan.

Corporate attorney and covered under employer's policy

Other coverage

happy with BCBS Plan

insurance through my firm.

i have pre-existing condition

Solo Practitioner...no group

Medicare, other private insurance

coverage through firm

I have current plan

The plan does not cover solos.

Don't allow my spouse who is a full time employee to participate

Firm offers insurance through different provider

Covered under another plan

Haven't had time to consider it.

Concern about obtaining comparable coverage to what I have now.

Employer provided plan

corporation provides insurance

I am covered by my firm's policy.

Not Wyoming resident any longer

Coverage for sole practitioner is not offered.

I have been unable to get a responsive reply from the provider.

Happy with our carrier

We just hit the required "3 months in business" mark and will be applying this week!

sole practitioner

other insurance plan

I am covered by my private employer's health insurance.

I have my own insurance and am satisfied with it.

have not had time to look into it fully

Not yet reviewed details

Currently contractually committed to existing carrier

haven't enrolled yet..

Under contract to another provider

Age

I am on Social Security

County Elected Official and am covered by group

I am a county employee and am covered under my employer's policy

Employer choice

coverage is not available unless have full time employee and cost of premiums

Firm Decision - I am unaware of the "why"

Have not applied yet.

I have other insurance through employment

I am enrolled in Medicare, so not necessary

Our firm has another provider

Have other coverage

I have concerns about the insurer - reports are mixed at best. That said, I am totally unhappy with BCBS, Very frustrating to be in this market where options are so limited and costs are so high.

I have a better plan

I am covered under my firm's health insurance plan.

sole practitioner

Just haven't got around to it.

Good insurance

I am semi-retired from the State

I have dual coverage from my employer (county) and my husband's employer (part of his employment package)

Covered by firm plan

Coverage from non-law-firm employer

I have Medicare coverage so not necessary or I would

I have my own coverage.

I belong to Medi-Share, a Christian medical burden-sharing ministry

not enough employees

happy with other insurance

My work provides health insurance

Partners in my firm don't want to take the time to switch insurance for the firm.

covered by wife's plan

I am a sole practitioner and everyone else in my office is otherwise covered--insufficient number of participants.

Lack of individual coverage under the plan

different coverage offered thru firm

DEMOGRAPHICS

43. What is your gender?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Male	60.4%	272
Female	39.6%	178
Answered Question		450
Skipped Question		35

44. I have been admitted to the practice of law for:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 5 years	18.0%	82
5 – 10 years	14.9%	68
11 – 20 years	23.7%	108
21 – 30 years	19.8%	90
More than 30 years	23.5%	107
Answered Question		455
Skipped Question		30

45. Are you engaged in:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Private practice as a generalist	38.7%	169
Private practice as a specialist	30.7%	134
Government practice as a generalist	11.2%	49
Government practice as a specialist	16.9%	74
Public interest as a generalist	1.4%	6
Public interest as a specialist	1.1%	5
Other (see below)		20
Answered Question		437
Skipped Question		48

Other:

active license status, but not practicing law a this time.

I work in a CPA practice

Remember we can't be "specialized"

Corporate attorney

government

Corporate Counsel - Part-Time

Assistant Wyoming State Public Defender

Corporate counsel

In house counsel

Government administrator

Contract

Private practice and federal contracts

Law Clerk, Wyoming District Court

Corporate attorney

Deputy County Attorney

I have mostly quit practicing law, due to stress.

corporate

personal injury litigation focus

corporate attorney

retiring tomorrow

46. If you are in private practice, the size of your firm is:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Sole practitioner	25.8%	109
2 – 5 attorneys	26.3%	111
6 – 10 attorneys	11.6%	49
More than 10 attorneys	10.2%	43
I am not in private practice	26.1%	110
Answered Question		422
Skipped Question		63

47. My earnings last year from the practice of law were:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than \$40,000	9.8%	44
\$40,001 - \$60,000	15.8%	71
\$60,001 - \$80,000	23.2%	104
\$80,001 - \$100,000	15.6%	70
\$100,001 - \$125,000	12.9%	58
\$125,001 - \$150,000	6.9%	31
\$150,001 - \$200,000	4.9%	22
\$200,001 or more	10.7%	48
Answered Question		448
Skipped Question		37

48. I work approximately the following number of hours each week in my practice:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 40 hours per week	17.0%	77
41 – 50 hours per week	49.1%	223
51 – 60 hours per week	24.2%	110
61 – 70 hours per week	8.4%	38
More than 70 hours per week	1.3%	6
Answered Question		454
Skipped Question		31

49. I handled the following number of pro bono/reduced fee legal cases in the past year:

	Response Percent	Response Count
0	38.2%	172
1	11.3%	51
2 - 3	26.4%	119
4 – 7	13.1%	59
8 – 11	4.4%	20
12 - 19	2.7%	12
More than 20	3.8%	17
Answered Question		450
Skipped Question		35

50. What are issues/activities in which the Wyoming State Bar is involved that you think are unimportant or inappropriate?

malpractice insurance

Ethics. Should be regulated by the state government

member's substance abuse

The Bar is more focused on discipline than in supporting attorneys.

nothing that is unimportant or inappropriate more a matter of prioritizing

Printed UW Law Journal

I can think of no areas that I do not think the bar should be involved.

pro bono mandates

Client security fund

None-the Bar is pretty much on track I think.

NA

dumb surveys

I wouldn't be critical of any of the Bar efforts as I believe them to be positive and productive.

NA

First year CLE not very useful (currently)

Providing CLE

I think the State Bar generally does a good job.

Women's law forum

None

I try not to pay attention to the Wyoming State Bar

none

CLE Training

advocacy by bar staff for more rigorous discipline

Trying to increase CLE hours

Cle

I do not support a mandatory/integrated bar.

oversight of substance abuse

health benefit plan

Health insurance programs

Lobbying

no opinion

partisan political activity

NA

None

Health Insurance

N/A

Casemaker

gender discrimination

IOLTA Accounts (They're a regressive tax on the poor)

Annual seminar

Fee dispute resolution

Bar Counsel should not be a practicing attorney

Unaware of activities of the Bar. Unable to comment.

You cannot teach civility to people, either they learn it as part of their upbringing or they experience a life-changing event that corrects their attitudes toward others.

Too much revision of Prof Conduct Rules

continuing legal education

Lobbying of any kind

Lawyer discipline

malpractice insurance

why develop a health insurance plan that solos can't participate in???? dumb.

Stop lobbying. It is hard to convince people that the Bar stands for professionalism when it acts as a trade lobbying organization.

None

No opinion

None

Pursuing Disciplinary action investigation with out a prima facie showing of a violation

Sending the Bar Commissioners to a meeting in Hawaii.

offering CLE's

requiring mentoring of first year attorneys

Women's Law Forum

Grievances/Complaints

cannot think of anything

promoting liberal agenda

New Attorney Mentoring

Lobbying

CLE - never believed in it and still don't

Lobbying

no response

pathways to professionalism--a joke

paper mailing unnecessary info/materials

pro bono/reduced fee enforcement

pro bono

bar counsel too cozy with his friends

The key to developing a civil bar is not hammering young attorneys on civility, it's focusing on the older members of the bar who are uncivil.

Lobbying

excesses on feel good issues- poverty, gender, race, etc.

NA

top heavy admin costs

NA

First year CLE not very available (geographically)

Providing disciplinary infrastructure

Former Bar Counsel has damaged the reputation of a number of attorneys by disclosing confidential information and persecuting various attorneys while ignoring misconduct by those she likes. She has hurt the entire process and made it far less enjoyable to be a Wyoming Lawyer.

Being the morality police

Ethics

Pro bono push

Social

enforcement of ethical rules

computer software programs

cliquish

NA

Law Day - more effectively managed by local bar associations, instead of pushing a canned program

Sections

pro bono

\$500 admin fee (fine) for every imagined rule violation?

continuing legal education

Hawking the Casemaker software

Admissions

pro bono requirements

the annual meeting has been declining in quality and attendance

The bar convention is too expensive for the amount of CLE

No opinion

Promoting a Political Agenda

Not communicating or participating at all with the law school.

promoting females

Attorney Health Benefit Plan

Sucking up to politicians

publish law review only 1 time a year

Designation of surrogate atty for solo practitioners

lobbying

The law school needs to focus on teaching students how to practice law.

NA

NA

Don't know

Publishing Bar directory

Professional Responsibility

Non-political

doesn't encourage broader participation

NA

Wyoming Lawyer magazine would be more beneficial if articles were focused on Wyoming law and issues, rather than national legal topics not really applicable under Wyoming law.

Require CLE reinstatement before resignation from bar?

continuing legal education

CLE

judicial advisory poll has been really weighted recently, and comments are not published, so what good does that do?

Attorney discipline should be handled by the Wyoming Supreme Court

No opinion

advancing liberal causes to the exclusion of conservative values

n/a

Claiming that 'civility' will improve the quality of practice, which is clearly untrue

pro bono program-how are these funds spent?

51. Name the most important things the Wyoming State Bar could or should do for Wyoming attorneys.

Ethics enforcement

lobby with courts to reduce stress for attorneys by encouraging communication regarding settings. We can't plan ANYTHING - even well in advance - that doesn't get arbitrarily interfered with at the last minute by a judge's random setting. the impression is that judge's set hearings quickly & on holidays to punish attorneys for not settling cases. It's like we aren't human and trying to raise families. It makes us feel insignificant and unrespected, although we work hard to do good respectable work. We can never commit 100% to a family vacation on a certain date, etc. Thank goodness Wyoming attorneys are decent to each other, since we have to work together to beg the courts for continuances and settings that don't negatively impact our relationships with our families. It is the worst part of being an attorney.

Provide CLEs

Lower the amount of attorney dues.

Help fund legal services for the poor

CLE

licensing lawyers

Change the Law School Curriculum to better prepare attorneys for the practice of law

CLE

hire staff that is more professional (some)

Support attorneys by being empathetic to the realities and the stress of practice.

more practical training before licenced

Mentoring

Keep dues down

Helps the public understand the importance of tort law in providing incentives for safe conduct.

Omit CLE requirement for attorneys over 65 like Colorado

Benefits plan is a terrific idea and probably helps a lot of people

help with managing business side - have many small solo firms

Promote Wyoming Lawyers to out of state companies

CLE

simplify laws and legal process - so lay people (and clients) can better understand

Provide a real program to help them with substance abuse

Increase mentoring programs

Make the legal directory available in electronic form

CLE

Continue Women's Legal Forum

ethics

Health welfare benefits

NA

get good reasonable judges

Health Insurance

When malicious or bad faith claims are filed against attorneys give them a form of recourse against the person who filed the claim

Good affordable CLE

Ethics sensitivity

NA

Lobby to eliminate the requirement that a jury be instructed regarding the impact of comparative fault in civil jury trials

More direct assistance in first years of practice

I think it is about right the way is presently is

Improve the Discliplinary Process. Have real consequences if people involved in that process disclose confidential information.

Succession planning

Discipline

Stay out of our lives!
business practices/ trust acct CLE
Monthly Communications
quality CLE with out-of- state presenters, so we get perspectives besides our own
Mentorship or internship for newly graduated attorneys
Licensing
Good CLE
Agressive investigation of complaints and lawyer discipline
Work on improving ethics and civility in profession
Affordable Health ins
research aid
I do not support a mandatory/integrated bar.
more emphasis on civility and collegiality
assist new lawyers in establishing the business side of practice
Group Health Coverage and some type of mental health/addiction program or services
disciplinary activities
Discipline
Raise the level of respect for attorneys and the profession in the public eye
CLE
Discipline
Increase mandatory CLE requirements annually
Mentoring Program
Be more supportive of WSB Foundation
Continuing education classes
Group insurance for solo practitioners
Encourage young lawyer participation in governance
Promote civility, professionalism
Group Health Insurance at a competitive rate
continuing legal education
CLE opportunities increased

make insurance available to any attorney licensed

health care for individuals in practice alone

bar directory

A bar association should be an information source, handling attorney discipline, and not much more than that. Lawyers are by their job descriptions, training, and usually their natures too, problem solvers. Most of them can solve their own problems without bar assistance or intervention.

Facilitate local continuing legal education

Maintain a mediator referral list

Provide ample CLE opportunities

CLE

providing CLE

Get an active young lawyers division and give them some money to do things. Quit micro managing them.

broaden scope of education opportunities

CLE

Stress related seminars

Standardizing civil discovery to streamline and reduce costs

Facilitate non-mandatory mentoring

Handle ethical complaints

should be more protective of attorneys against B.S. complaints

develop better CLE classes for the more experienced attorney

Attorney Discipline

CLE

don't know

Better CLE where you could actually learn substantive information on a topic. Not just panel of attorneys reading from a script about topics I would look up myself.

Support for state wide legal services for the indigent

Create better CLEs - bring in better "teachers"

Prosecute real (large) rules violations

CLE opportunities

eliminate continuing legal education

Assistance in technology related issues

Increase public awareness of the law-education

More high level CLE

license

Public outreach/education

eliminate 5 hour electronic cle limit

Ethics instruction

The Bar should investigate ethical breaches by prosecutors.

networking

Lawyer discipline

Provide useful current legal updates

health insurance options

Offer assistance (answer questions, advise) to attorneys with questions regarding professional responsibility questions/issues.

Continuing Education

maintain/improve the option for health ins.

The Executive Director could care about the members

Lower the cost of bar membership. Wyoming is more expensive than other states and provides fewer benefits.

Help/Encourage Judges to Enforce Existing Rules

Respond to the Republican/corporate denigration of lawyers

mentoring

Bar Admissions

Fee disputes

Discipline

help raise the image of lawyers in their communities

Mentoring

Take a larger role in the UW college of Law

Assist the law schools to teach law students that effective advocacy does not mean being discourteous or pushing ethical limits

Help organize law day activities

CLE

The third year of law school should be an apprenticeship with licensed attorneys in the state.

- health insurance
- Mentor the new ones
- Improving practical experiences in law school
- create a vehicle by which complaints about judges can be made in an anonymous and productive manner
- improve public awareness and image
- police its attorneys more closely
- Require a CLE each year on civility to other attorneys/clients and support staff - including courts and court reporters
- CLE
- Issues with Substance Abuse
- discipline
- Mentoring for young attorneys
- First and second year mentorship
- Be more proactive/aggressive in dealing with complaints against attorneys
- basic training of young attorneys
- Protect us from unsubstantiated charges from angry clients
- Enforce Unauthorized practice of law
- substance abuse intervention
- stay out of politics
- Improve the image of the Wyoming attorney.
- Get reciprocity between Wy, Co. Ut, Az. Nm, Id. Mt.
- Not
- Juvenile Justice
- Legal services for indigent
- Provide a panel of trained mediators.
- work to make availability of legal services less expensive to the general public, not just for the poor
- Require business administration (& business ethics) CLE for those in private practice
- UPL - almost no enforcement - also no teeth in law
- Lexis/Nexis for free or highly reduced cost

no response

Support in fielding unwarranted malpractice claims

Insurance

health insurance for solos

improve the civility between attorneys

WY cost of living v. salary analysis

Providing quality CLE

Provide health insurance

Develop comprehensive CLE courses that rival law school

Protect against outsourcing of legal jobs to other countries

Ethics

continuing education

Require a type of training or "residency" requirement that prepares people for the realities of practicing law

Medical coverage

provide meaningful ethics advice by a knowledgeable bar counsel

Requiring more CLEs, pro bono, malpractice insurance only hurts solo attorneys. We do these things voluntarily, if it were required, it would be a burden.

more education and training on civility and ethics

Bar Exam - admission to practice law

Keep salaries reasonable

Limit attorney advertising so that attorneys are not placed in a negative light by their own hand.

Increase awareness of judicial nominating committee

good CLE classes

bench/bar relations

ways and means for attorneys to connect for discussion of best practices

Provide better access to malpractice insurance

Work on increasing courtesy and civility

Encourage judges to apply Rule 11

KEEP DUES FROM RISING

Joint gender forum to address issues involving diversity bench/bar/legislature

civility

stress relief support and strategies

NA

encourage civility

Mandatory malpractice insurance

CLE

NA

Partner with other professional organizations to improve the quality of and lower the cost of medical insurance to professionals

Don't charge for referral service listing

Business-related challenges of running a firm

CLE

Find a cure for megalomania.

Assist new attorneys to evaluate small town practice

Legal and Health Advice

Admissions and discipline

Discipline

Good Discipline

Mandatory ethics CLE

Curb / restraint political bent of law school

Mentors

practice and ethical advice

Annual bar meeting attendance should be ala carte

continue to improve health care coverage

Mandatory Mentoring Program

CLE

CLE

Raise the level of respect, cooperation and fairplay among attorneys

create opportunities to network

Discipline

Schedule annual bar conventions in other parts of state rather than primarily in SE Wyoming

Health Insurance

Lobby on issues important to the Bar membership

Business and ethic advice and resources

Law office management services

Educate Bar members more about committee activity and what the Bar does

Ethical considerations as discussed herein

On-going training

professional conduct monitoring

Publicity to improve image of profession

offer more stress related information and services

less expensive CLE/more online options to save travel

Figure out a way to make attorneys return calls to other attorneys

Regulate the ethical conduct of attorneys

providing opportunities to gather and communicate, improving civility

Figure out a way to revive the Bar Foundation...don't let it die. This is the most under utilized resource available in the Bar. Most states the Foundation owns the Bar building and finances things a unified bar cannot.

more educational opportunities for prosecutors

Professional Ethics Enforcement

Remove ADVERSARY from family law to greatest extent possible.

More group insurance products

Conduct licensing exam

Improve Attorney Image

ETHICS COMPLAINTS

Cheaper CLEs

Provision of an excellent health care insurance plan

Teach a seminar at the law school on "civility" in the court room.

Ignore small or tentative rules violations

Encourage / maintain professional standards

eliminate continuing legal education

Look into the form providers as unauthorized practice of law

More promotion of Wyoming attorneys to the public
educate

Continue encouraging & supporting pro bono work
establish a mentoring program

pro bono promotion

discipline

Admissions

Provide access to useful CLE from outside providers

I appreciate that the bar encourages professionalism and courtesy, while still understanding that trying to make attorneys behave professionally or show professional courtesy is impossible. Conduct and comportment are personal decisions and cannot be required from another.

Employment postings on line and each monthly publication

practical application ethics CLE

young lawyers should be acknowledged as professionals, and the future of our organization

Place .mp3 audio files of the Bar Commissioner meetings online

Help the Bar get over the "small town" reticence to report violations of standards

Actually take action against lawyers known to be unethical -- and there are several -- one who has been chastised and sanctioned at both the State and Federal Courts.

public education on the importance of the jury system

Lawyer Discipline and Grievance proceedings

Grievance forum

Improving Image of Attorneys

weed out cranky judges

Regulate the unauthorized Practice of Law

Mentoring/information sharing for ALL attorneys

pro bono opportunities

Provide more training on the business aspect of practicing law.

mentoring

Be more involved in the community

Improving quality of CLEs offered in Wyoming

regulate attorneys licenses
sponsor legal public service announcements
provide a substantial voluntary conduit for community involvement
Discipline
Mentoring Program
unauthorized practice of law
First and second year mentorship
Open the doors for reciprocity
Help educate us on major changes in the law
CLE programs
become neutral and fair
Lobby for strict enforcement of "attorney civility" rules
Sure
Promotion of pro bono work
Be more of a conduit for communications between attorneys and judges. There are several issues the local bar really needs to address with our judges, and I feel we have no effective way to do that.
look to the Wal-mart model to make legal services available, timely, affordable
Require more ethics CLE
Stimulate more planning to improve legislation
Educate firms on the benefit of lower stress employees and of promoting healthier employees
mentoring for new attorneys
better e-filing in state courts
Keeping attys advised of all polictial, legislative, judicial, professional and technical developments
Help Lawyers manage their business
Promote a better view of attorneys by the public through advertisements to that effect
Fee Arbitration
complaints against lawyers
Make law school classes more focused on the realities of practicing law (working with clients, filing papers, drafting, the economics of taking on various cases, etc.)
Professional Liability Insurance pooling

provide a meaningful way to counsel/discipline unprofessional judges
The bar could sponsor (free) CLEs on the practice of law (ie how to do things such as file an adoption etc.)
encourage a higher moral and ethical behavior in society
Ethics violations
Avoid excessive travel and other expenses
Create public forums in which people learn about the importance of lawyers to the functioning of our society as a free society.
help encourage civility and pride
law school liaison
Getting lawyers to set up practice where the people are
Encourage the law school to treat law more as a learned profession
IMPROVE PUBLIC'S IMAGE OF PROFESSION
Address incivility among attorneys
CLE
NA
make judges follow the rules the way we have to
impaired attorney assistance
Maintaining a cohesive community in the Wyoming legal practice
NA
Set up mentoring for EVERY new attorney
Newsletter
Find honest work.
CLE
serve as a communications facilitator within the state
CLE
Casemaker
Better prepare young attorneys
Train legal assistants
gain independence from the State Supreme Court
establish a group malpractice coverage

Provide organized community outreach/volunteer opportunities

Support of the Courts

Health Insurance Pool

professional discipline

Discipline

Lobby the Legislature to Increase funding for pro bono, indigent and legal services clinics so that private attorneys can begin to assist the poor who are in need of representation.

CLE Opportunities

More socializing/activities in addition to annual Bar Meeting

Notifying attorneys with updates in statutes and case law.

Provide educational alternatives to discipline, especially for Rule 11 type violations, which would encourage more lawyers to report them.

Hot line for wyoming lawyers re: alcohol, stress

Practice management focused training

professional communication of bar/state issues

active mentoring program for new attorneys

Compile guidelines for electronic discovery practices

Examinations for admission to the bar

offering a single group health insurance plan (WSB as a whole to reduce premiums)

Mentoring

Enforce Civility among lawyers

Facilitate firms to offer low-fee index-based retirement plans

Alcohol/substance abuse program

BUSINESS EDUCATION

shine the light on low salaries both in the government and private practice.

Assist Judges in compliance with Canons (recusal)

Discipline

eliminate continuing legal education

Solicitation of cases

discipline

CLE including annual meeting

seminars

CLE

Provide practical firm management/business pointers

Advise attorneys of changes in the law or statutes

resources for low income individuals

family courts (NOT just juvenile courts) need to be created

Provide more fiscal and programmatic transparency.

Consider tightening admissions criteria to assure lawyers admitted have integrity and are committed to high quality service

Increase the number of ethics hours required

Ethics

Mentoring

Communications

Licensing

continue with CLE courses around the state on occasion

Advertising

promoting civility and professionalism

Helping lackluster attorneys improve their skills

provide an effective support system for attorneys with substance abuse problems

provide continuing education to the general public regarding civics and the public's role in government

Bar/Bench Relations

admissions

First and second year mentorship

Provide situations that encourage networking

bench/bar relations

discontinue the magazine

Make all professional misconduct information public

reduced dues for Seniors semi-retired

be realistic about the economy and modern life

Create more young lawyer-focused events/CLEs
improving image of lawyers
easier CLE (more online)