

Wyoming State Bar Board of Officers & Commissioners Meeting

April 11, 2025
Best Western Sheridan Center
Sheridan, Wyoming

In Attendance:	James T. Whiting, President; P. Craig Silva, President-Elect; Alison O. Gee, Vice President; Kelly M. Neville, Treasurer (via Zoom); Anna M. Reeves Olson, Immediate Past President; Christopher G. Humphrey, First Judicial District Commissioner; Dona Playton, Second Judicial District Commissioner (via Zoom); Jason Petri, Third Judicial District Commissioner; Kevin K. Kessner, Fourth Judicial District Commissioner; Jennifer L. Kirk, Fifth Judicial District Commissioner; Kyle A. Ferris, Sixth Judicial District Commissioner; Emily S. Madden, Seventh Judicial District Commissioner; Clayton M. Melinkovich, Ninth Judicial District Commissioner; Sharon Wilkinson, Executive Director and Mark W. Gifford, Bar Counsel
Absent:	Anne K. Wasserburger, Eighth Judicial District Commissioner and Carl A. Edelman, Chair, Young Lawyer Section
Guests:	Hon. Lynne J. Boomgaarden, Wyoming Supreme Court; Elisa Butler, Wyoming Supreme Court and Zack DeMeola, Law School Admission Council, Inc. (LSAC)

President James T. Whiting called the meeting to order at 12:27 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2025.

Approval of Consent Agenda

President Whiting shared that he asked Executive Director Sharon Wilkinson to pull the Treasurer's Report out of the Consent Agenda, so that is a change the Board will see from now on. He asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that at Commissioner Dona Playton's request, she would like to add the Foundations for Practice Survey as an action item on the agenda and reported that Jack DeMeola from the Law School Admission Council, Inc. (LSAC) would be joining the meeting via Zoom at 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Jennifer Kirk made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the noted changes. Vice President Alison Gee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kelly M. Neville reported that we had a CD mature that was rolled into a 60-month CD. She shared that she is trying to diversify the Bar's CDs in order to get higher interest rates. There is a 90-day penalty if we need it for liquidity, but she does not anticipate that. She shared that another CD matured and \$200,000 was put towards the bond portfolio. Treasurer Neville shared that she spoke with Cason Swinn at RBC Wealth Management before doing this.

She assured the Board that allocating additional funds to the bond portfolio is within the parameters of the Bar's investment policy.

Treasurer Neville reminded the Board that a question came up during the August budget meeting about the Bar staff having credit cards. She shared that big purchases and regular, monthly charges are charged to Executive Director Wilkinson's credit card, as hers is the only one that earns points. She visited with Executive Director Wilkinson about this and learned that those points have been used to purchase a vacuum for the Bar office as well as a digital camera years ago. Executive Director Wilkinson plans to use points to purchase door prize items for this year's Annual Meeting.

Treasurer Neville shared that she reviews all credit card statements, transactions and receipts for each staff member every month. Vice President Gee asked if the Bar had ever considered a 2% cash back card. She shared that is what they have for her law firm and getting cash back is a benefit. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she would ask Cathy Duncil, Bookkeeper, to look into this.

President-Elect P. Craig Silva shared that he realizes the Bar lost money in its investment account last month and wondered if that had recovered at all. Treasurer Neville shared that she has only seen the March statement from RBC but she is unaware how the portfolio performed since then.

President-Elect Silva made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Kevin K. Kessner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

President Whiting thanked Treasurer Neville for doing such a great job with keeping things on track with the Bar's finances.

Admissions

Mark W. Gifford reported that there were 19 applicants who sat for the February bar exam. Unfortunately, he reported that the pass rate on the exam is the poorest we have ever seen with University of Wyoming College of Law graduates fairing particularly poorly. He reported that the Board of Law Examiners met yesterday to approve admission for all those who met all requirements, but scores will not be sent to the Supreme Court until Tuesday, as Cathy Duncil, Admissions Director, is on vacation.

Mr. Gifford shared that one of the applicants who passed the exam has been referred for a hearing before the Character and Fitness Committee, as he has over \$100,000 in credit card debt. The applicant is working with a debt consolidation firm to help him negotiate that down. Mr. Gifford and Cathy Duncil recommended that the applicant consider withdrawing his application so he can work on the debt and then come back as a potential conditional admittee. Mr. Gifford explained that in order to qualify for conditional admission, the applicant must show a sustained and effective path toward remediation. He shared that unfortunately the applicant was not interested in that and wished for his application to be advanced.

President-Elect Silva asked if law school graduates were on their own for bar exam preparation. Commissioner Playton shared that there is a class at the law school, but it has been a different faculty member teaching it each time. She shared that Professor Danielle Cover is in charge of student success, and bar preparation falls within that.

Mark Gifford shared that when you look at the pass rates, you can see that in 2022, scores really started to dip. He reminded the Board that when the Covid pandemic hit, all courses were taught remotely. Unfortunately, with the exception of the July 2023 exam, there has been a steady decline in scores.

Commissioner Playton reminded the Board that the current first year law students will be the first class to take the NextGen exam. She shared that she is going to Chicago in May to serve as part of a panel on grading the NextGen exam. She thinks it will be very insightful to know and learn what the students will be expected to know.

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Executive Director Wilkinson reported that the Supreme Court recently suspended seven lawyers for failure to comply with the CLE requirements. She shared that three lawyers for whom she recommended their suspension responded to the Court's Order to Show Cause. She reported that the Court gave one of those members an extension of time but they are still awaiting the Court's decision with the other two.

Office of Bar Counsel Report

Mark Gifford referred the Board to his written memo in the meeting materials. He reported that the Court has approved a stipulated 90-day suspension for Casper lawyer Jack Hoard. He shared that there was a Board of Professional Responsibility (BPR) hearing in early December, after which the attorney objected to the hearing panel's report and recommendation for a public censure. He is still awaiting a decision from the Court.

Knowing that the Board continues to receive email correspondence from Cheyenne lawyer Gayla Austin, he reported that she requested to withdraw her membership from the Bar and the Court has issued an Order of Withdrawal. As a result, she is no longer a member of the Bar.

Mr. Gifford also reported that Becket Hinckley's membership was also terminated this week. He provided an overview of what led to Mr. Hinckley's disciplinary suspension.

Mark Gifford was pleased to report that his office is seeing a decline in the number of disciplinary orders, and he attributed it to the fact that the Ethics Hotline is so busy and utilized by many. On the other hand, he reported that the number of incidents where lawyers are simply not functioning has increased, a situation his office is trying to remedy through non-disciplinary means.

2023-2025 Strategic Plan Progress Report

Executive Director Wilkinson walked the Board through the progress report and mentioned that a significant amount of work has been done over the last two years. There was discussion about the mentoring program and some expressed frustration with the platform being a bit clunky. Commissioner Christopher G. Humphrey shared that there are some advantages to the platform and he has enjoyed his experience as a mentor and believes his mentee is also pleased. Commissioner Kessner shared that he is still serving as a mentor; however, he and his mentee have stopped using the Chronus platform.

Law School Endowment

Treasurer Neville shared that the Law School Endowment Committee decided to break up the \$4,000 last year for two students who participated in the Legal Liftoff program. One student went to the Crook County Attorney's Office and the other worked for Judge Kaste in Uinta County.

Treasurer Neville reported that the Bar is currently taking applications from both students and employers. The deadline to apply is April 18th. The committee will then review the applications and hopefully make a match in one of the 14 legal desert counties.

Treasurer Neville reminded the Board that there was discussion at the January meeting about possibly taking some of the Bar's reserves and allocating it towards the endowment. She shared that she and Executive Director Wilkinson met with Brett Befus at the University of Wyoming Foundation, but allocating funds to the Foundation would limit the eligible beneficiaries to only current UW students. She shared that they also met with the Wyoming Community Foundation (WCF) to learn what it could offer. Treasurer Neville described the pros and cons of investing with WCF.

Commissioner Clayton Melinkovich suggested adding a line item to the license fee statement to allow members to contribute to the endowment. Commissioner Kirk wondered about starting to charge a registration fee for the Small/Solo/Rural Law Forum and put that money towards the endowment.

Public Defender Issue

Vice President Gee shared that Judge Phillips, Circuit Court judge in Gillette, sent an email to the lawyers in her judicial district indicating that the judges are going to start assigning cases to lawyers due to the extreme shortage of lawyers in the Public Defender's Office. She shared that the pay for those involuntary appointments is \$100 per hour for in-court appearances but lower for out-of-court work. She reported that in order to get reimbursed, lawyers have to submit an affidavit.

Commissioner Kyle Ferris shared that they have lost two attorneys in the Sixth Judicial District and are considering asking for two more positions in the Campbell County Attorney's Office. He reiterated Vice President Gee's concern about the shortage and turnover in the Public Defender's Office in Gillette.

Draft 2025 Bar Member Survey

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that the Bar conducts the Bar Member Survey in odd-numbered years in preparation for the June strategic planning session. She walked the Board through her recommended changes to the survey and discussed the changes Chief Justice Fox asked her to make.

There was much discussion about the question asking lawyers' hourly rates. Mark Gifford related a concern that in a recent case, the Wyoming Supreme Court cited the 2023 Bar Member Survey to support a holding that \$250 per hour is a reasonable rate. Given that the survey had only a 23% response rate and a large percentage of respondents were government lawyers who do not charge an hourly fee, Mr. Gifford was concerned that this particular question on the survey may be subject to misapplication.

After extensive discussion, Commissioner Kessner made a motion to remove the hourly rate question from the 2025 survey. Past President Anna Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Judicial Branch Strategic Plan

Justice Lynne J. Boomgaarden joined the meeting via Zoom. She shared that the Wyoming Judicial Council (WJC) spent two full days in March working on its 2025-2027 Strategic Plan. She reported that the plan will not be finalized until June. Justice Boomgaarden shared that in the course of their planning meetings, it became evident that bench/bar relations are highly valued by the judges and justices.

Justice Boomgaarden outlined the four pillars of the plan:

1. ***Judicial Branch Excellence and Innovation***

The focus here will be on judicial readiness and leadership development. The branch will also focus on how to better market and recruit for judicial vacancies.

2. ***Predictable and Secure Funding to Uphold Judicial Integrity and Efficiency***

The focus here will be to prioritize pay for judges and judicial branch employees. Justice Boomgaarden mentioned that they will be coming to the Bar to figure out how important salary is in order to get quality judicial candidates.

3. ***Accessible Justice for All***

Justice Boomgaarden reported that there was much discussion regarding how the branch could continue to work with the Bar to support the promotion of practice in rural areas. She also shared the acknowledgement that there has really been a breakdown in the level of activities of the county bars. The branch is hoping to promote and strengthen those activities with judges' involvement.

4. ***Public Trust and Accountability***

The first goal will be to promote public confidence in the law. Justice Boomgaarden shared that they need to figure out how to survey the public to find out what Wyoming

citizens' perceptions of the judicial branch are. They also recognize the need to do some critical self-assessment in order to improve the merit selection system. The second goal will be to develop a communications plan with specific goals. The branch needs to hire a public information officer and develop a social media presence.

Mark Gifford asked Justice Boomgaarden if, in light of some recent events, she could share the policy on appointing retired judges and justices to cases. Justice Boomgaarden acknowledged that the Wyoming Judicial Council has a policy that dictates how those requests are made and what criteria is considered. She will share the policy with Mr. Gifford.

Elisa Butler, State Court Administrator, joined the meeting via Zoom. Ms. Butler shared that she has heard from some lawyers that the efilng training being offered by their vendor is not adequate. She asked if the Board had any feedback on how they could train lawyers more effectively.

President Whiting shared that the District Court Clerk in his hometown offered a training that he thought was more effective than any other training he had been to.

Justice Boomgaarden thanked the Board for the invitation to address it and she and Ms. Butler left the meeting.

Foundations for Practice Survey

Zack DeMeola, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives at LSAC, joined the meeting via Zoom. He provided an overview of the Foundations 2.0 study to modernize lawyering skills and knowledge. He shared that the project builds on a 2014 landmark study of 24,000 lawyers from 50 states. His organization is partnering with the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) on the project and they wish to collaborate with bar associations in order to hear from as many lawyers as possible. He offered to share the link to the survey and provide some introductory language and would be grateful if the Bar would share it with Wyoming lawyers. He shared that any Bar that participates will receive an overall preliminary report. The program facilitators can even isolate responses from Wyoming so we can see state-specific information.

Mr. DeMeola reported that much has changed since 2014 so it is very important to gather updated data. He shared that they have commitments from 11 states so far and the project is very complimentary to what the Conference of Chief Justices is working on, which is a focus on practice readiness and public service. Chief Justices in participating states will also receive the data.

Mark Gifford shared with Mr. DeMeola that the Bar conducts the Bar Member Survey every two years in preparation for a two-day strategic planning session. That survey will go to the membership soon and he is concerned about the members experiencing survey fatigue. He wondered how we float two surveys without impacting the response rate on either.

Zack DeMeola shared that the Foundation 2.0 survey is designed to take approximately 20 minutes. It is currently being reviewed by third parties but should be complete next week. He indicated that the survey will be circulated in the 11 states that have agreed to participate the last week of April but the window will stay open until June.

After Mr. DeMeola left the meeting and there was discussion, Commissioner Melinkovich made a motion to distribute the survey to the membership after the Bar Member Survey has been conducted. President-Elect Silva seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ad Hoc Well-Being Committee

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that there is an ad hoc well-being committee that, until recently, was under the leadership of Maryt Fredrickson. The committee reached out to her to see if any of the Officers or Commissioners wished to participate on the committee or if they had any ideas about their constituents that could potentially be interested. Commissioner Emily Madden recommended they reach out to Alicia Evans at the Spence Law Firm.

Non-Board Member Attendance at Board Meetings

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that prior to the January Board meeting, Commissioner Melinkovich notified his constituents to let them know the meeting was taking place. When one of his constituents asked for the link to participate via Zoom, Commissioner Melinkovich contacted President Whiting to see if that was acceptable. President Whiting contacted Executive Director Wilkinson who indicated that she did not recall this ever happening before. President Whiting wished for this to be on today's agenda for discussion.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she did not view the meetings as private by any means; however, each Commissioner is elected by his/her constituents, so in her view, the Commissioners are their representatives at each meeting. She reminded the Board that the Bylaws of the Wyoming State Bar govern what the Commissioners' duties are, including communicating with constituents, hosting meetings in their judicial districts, etc.

Mark Gifford cautioned the Board about implementing any policy governing this, as there is some benefit to having the flexibility to deal with these cases as they arise.

Executive Director Wilkinson asked the Commissioners how many of them notify their constituents ahead of time about an upcoming meeting. Some indicated they do. Executive Director Wilkinson encouraged the Commissioners to do that so the lawyers in their districts have an opportunity to present to their commissioner any issues they would like the Board to consider. She indicated that she would send a reminder when she sends the Board meeting materials two weeks prior to the meeting.

Legislative Update

Mark Gifford referred the Board to the memo Executive Director Wilkinson circulated days ago that included a wrap-up of legislative bills that could potentially impact the legal profession. Mr. Gifford also reported that a legislator from Green River proposed three topics for interim

discussion to the Joint Judiciary Committee. Those topics were: 1) election of judges, 2) election of Wyoming's Attorney General, and 3) restructuring the Wyoming State Bar, the basis for which appears to be the Bar's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Section.

Mr. Gifford indicated that he watched the pitch on these three topics that was made to the Joint Judiciary Committee, and it did not seem to gain much traction. He reported that we will not know what the final interim topics are for two more weeks; however, there is no indication that any of these will be chosen.

Considering the fact that having a DE&I Section may put the Bar in the Legislature's crosshairs, he distributed a copy of HB147, which prohibits governmental entities from engaging in any diversity, equity or inclusion activities. He reported that this has engendered some discussion about possibly changing the name of the section. He shared that he and Executive Director Wilkinson met with the DE&I Section Council this week and had a good discussion about this. Mr. Gifford shared that we have always had good relations with the DE&I Section Council, and the members of the Council are fully aware of the Bar's restrictions with Keller. The group is always mindful of staying within the bounds of Keller and respect that. Overall, the Section Council is not in favor of changing the section name. Mr. Gifford also opined that HB147 does not apply to the Bar.

Commissioner Humphrey shared that he used to be the Treasurer of the DE&I Section Council and in his review of HB147, he does not think it impacts anything the section does.

Commissioner Melinkovich asked what the criteria were for the formation of a section. Executive Director Wilkinson provided an overview of the process prescribed by the Bylaws.

Vice President Gee felt that if having such a section could potentially impact the mandatory nature of the Bar, we should consider changing the name. Commissioner Madden shared her concern.

Commissioner Playton wondered if we would be risking more by changing the name. Vice President Gee appreciated her perspective.

President-Elect Silva shared that he would propose changing the name to the Civil Rights Section, as the current name is obviously a red flag to some in the legislature. He asked Commissioner Playton what the law school is doing in regard to diversity, equity and inclusion. Commissioner Playton shared that the University of Wyoming has wiped all of these efforts out. From her perspective, this presents a problem for the law school, as there is an ABA accreditation standard that calls for law schools to factor it in. She reported that they are struggling to figure out how to handle all of this without jeopardizing their accreditation.

Executive Director Wilkinson and Mark Gifford shared that they are proud of the Section Council and the good work they have done. Executive Director Wilkinson read a list of CLE programs the section has sponsored.

Executive Director Wilkinson recommended waiting to see what interim topics are chosen. Vice President Gee wondered if we would not be better off to get ahead of it. Mark Gifford recommended bringing this back to the Board at the August meeting with a report outlining what other bars around the country have done to address this issue.

Defending the Rule of Law

Commissioner Madden reported that she got a call from one of her constituents this morning who wished to discuss the issue of electing judges in Wyoming. She shared that when the bill about electing judges was introduced in this last legislative session, President-Elect Silva sent it out as an FYI to the Natrona County Bar. She reported that this constituent was vocal about his support for the bill, which prompted much opposition from other lawyers and quite a lively email discussion. This constituent claims there are many other members of the Bar who are in favor of electing judges and urged Commissioner Madden to steer the Bar clear of taking a position on this unless it was fully in support of electing judges. President-Elect Silva shared that he has also heard from lawyers who are in support of electing judges.

Commissioner Madden shared that she has also heard from constituents asking when and if the Bar is going to take a position on defending the Rule of Law. She also shared that she and President-Elect Silva serve on the CLE Committee and there will be a CLE at Annual Meeting about the judicial selection process.

President-Elect Silva reminded the Board that it represents 3,300+ members with no clear consensus on these issues. As a result, he feels that the Bar needs to remain neutral. Despite that, he encouraged individual lawyers to take a stand on anything they wish but emphasized that the Bar has a different responsibility.

Commissioner Playton stated that the Rule of Law is different than whether we elect judges or not. She does not feel standing up for the Rule of Law is a Keller issue.

Mark Gifford shared his sadness that terms like “Rule of Law” are now politically charged. He directed the Board’s attention to the ABA statement that was included in the email Executive Director Wilkinson shared at Justice Boomgaarden’s request. He commented that the tenor of that statement was more subdued than the letter many Wyoming lawyers sent Wyoming’s congressional delegation. He pointed out that only one mandatory bar signed onto the ABA’s statement and that was New Mexico. He reported that mandatory bars are staying away from this for good reason and he would counsel against the Bar taking a position on this.

Commissioner Playton shared that it is good that we are contemplating this and discussing it. She feels we need to keep doing the work that we are doing, which is good for the legal profession.

Western States Bar Conference

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she, Treasurer Neville, Vice President Gee, Commissioner Kirk, Commissioner Madden and Mark Gifford attended the Western States Bar

Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, last week. She provided an overview of the sessions at the conference.

The attendees discussed the various sessions that were offered and agreed that the program on artificial intelligence (AI) was by far the best program. Mark Gifford shared that the program was so effective, as the speaker opened our eyes to practical applications. He is already contemplating how he can implement AI into his office for managing discovery and developing timelines in his cases and potentially assisting with character and fitness reviews for applicants for admission. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she has already asked for the AI speaker's contact information and is interested in bringing her to Wyoming.

Vice President Gee shared that we heard a bit from Montana about its legislature. The Montana Bar is very proactive in educating and informing its members about the bills that impact the legal profession. She shared that they have a legislative team that tracks bills and a communications team that helps get messaging out. They also do law school for legislators. She thinks these are positive things to do in order to build relations.

President's Report

President Whiting shared that even though this Board cannot take a position on some of these issues as a whole, he would encourage all lawyers to do what they can individually.

President-Elect's Report

President-Elect Silva reported that the Wyoming Supreme Court is coming to Casper again for oral argument. He also shared that he is working closely with Executive Director Wilkinson to get Decisis in the county law library.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that the April 8th launch with Decisis has gone very smoothly and, as of this morning, there are 113 active user accounts. She shared that she has received very positive feedback from the members. She reminded the Board that vLex Fastcase is still available to the members but it will go away eventually. Piggybacking on President-Elect Silva's comment about making Decisis available at the Natrona County law library, she asked if each county had a law library. After discussion, she offered to contact all of the District Court clerks and let them know that Decisis could be available to them free of charge if they were interested.

Executive Director Wilkinson reported that she recently discovered a new revenue source for the Bar, which is by offering digital advertising opportunities in the eBrief newsletter as well as on the Bar's social media sites.

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that she launched the Bar's CafePress store in January so members can purchase Wyoming State Bar merchandise. She reported that to date, there have been ten orders resulting in \$57.00 in revenue.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she is working with Madi Miller, the Bar's social media manager, on a "Why I Practice Law" project. She is looking for volunteers to share a brief reflection on their legal careers that will hopefully highlight the importance of lawyers in today's society. She asked the Board members to please send her at least three names from their respective districts.

Executive Director Wilkinson reported that the website refresh had finally taken place and she has received positive feedback from the membership.

Commissioners' Reports

- ***First Judicial District*** – Commissioner Humphrey thanked the Board for the warm welcome he has received at his first meeting. He shared that the Laramie County Bar has not met in a long time, as it is hard to compete with American Inns of Court. Inns has a lot of judicial involvement and networking opportunities. He shared that he plans to meet with former Commissioner Stefanie Boster to hopefully get that active again. Commissioner Humphrey shared that there are two new judges in his district—Judge Forwood and Judge Hibben.
- ***Second Judicial District*** – Commissioner Playton shared that two of the law school clinics are losing their directors. Meredith Esser is leaving the Defender Aid Clinic, but they have two good candidates. Also, Caryn Schreiber, Director of the Civil Legal Services Clinic, is leaving. She shared that they are trying to find an adjunct professor to supervise the Civil Legal Services Clinic. Commissioner Playton reported that the law school hosted Inns of Court last night, and they had a good turnout of Cheyenne attorneys. She also reported that she recently learned that applications for law school are up 20% at the UW College of Law. Nationally, they are up 25%. She reported that the law school currently has 158 seat deposits. They look to be on course to meet the target of 75 in the incoming 11 class. Commissioner Playton reported that the Albany County Bar has new officers in place and they hosted a CLE luncheon/legislative update with a few legislators.
- ***Third Judicial District*** – Commissioner Jason Petri shared that there is a sudden interest in reviving the Sweetwater County Bar. He thinks the judges may be driving this. He shared that some in his district continue to struggle with some of the statutory requirements pertaining to eFiling.
- ***Fourth Judicial District*** – Commissioner Kessner shared that they are in the process of revamping the old Law Day program to introduce kids to the three branches of government.
- ***Fifth Judicial District*** – Commissioner Kirk shared that her district is participating in a Law Day program with their fifth graders. She reported that this year they are doing a mock trial based on the Wizard of Oz. She shared that they always have a good turnout, as the Public Defender's Office gets involved and Judge Overfield comes down to participate. She reported that there is one judge in her district who does not want to use eFiling so the clerks are not educated about eFiling. She reported that some of the issues with eFiling revolve around Title 25 cases. She expressed her gratitude for Elisa Butler when they have questions in her district.

- ***Sixth Judicial District*** – Commissioner Ferris reiterated the concerns previously expressed by Vice President Gee about the public defender issue in his district.
- ***Seventh Judicial District*** – Commissioner Madden shared that the Natrona County Bar is thriving and active; she credited President-Elect Silva for all he has done to facilitate that. She reported that they had a CLE at Racca’s last month and will do another one there this month.
- ***Ninth Judicial District*** – Commissioner Melinkovich reported that he participated in the career fair at the high school along with the District Court Clerk. He also goes to the 8th grade class each year to teach them about the Constitution. He was able to share statistics that he received from the dean of the law school showing how Wyoming is one of two states seeing a decline in LSAT takers. He tries to encourage the students to consider a career in law. Commissioner Melinkovich shared that he attended an open house at a firm in Jackson. The firm hired a new attorney who lives in Alabama and will be in Jackson once per quarter.

President James Whiting adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2025.

Minutes Submitted by:

Sharon Wilkinson
Executive Director