

# Wyoming State Bar Board of Officers & Commissioners Meeting

January 20, 2023  
Holiday Inn Express & Suites  
Lander, Wyoming

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**In Attendance:** Christopher H. Hawks, President; Anna M. Reeves Olson, President-Elect; Erin E. Weisman, Vice President; Kelly M. Neville, Treasurer; J. Kenneth Barbe, Immediate Past President; Stefanie L. Boster, First Judicial District Commissioner; Dona Playton, Second Judicial District Commissioner (via phone); Jason Petri, Third Judicial District Commissioner; Kevin K. Kessner; Fourth Judicial District Commissioner (via phone); Jennifer L. Kirk, Fifth Judicial District Commissioner; Alison O. Gee, Sixth Judicial District Commissioner; P. Craig Silva, Seventh Judicial District Commissioner; Shawn G. Wilde, Eighth Judicial District Commissioner (via phone); James T. Whiting, Ninth Judicial District Commissioner; Nicklaus L. Dillinger, Chair, Young Lawyer Section (via phone for a portion of the meeting); Sharon Wilkinson, Executive Director; Mark W. Gifford, Bar Counsel and Cathy Duncil, Admissions Director

**Guests:** Mike Merback, Investment Consultant from RBC Wealth Management  
Robert Dahill, Auditor, McGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLP

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President Christopher Hawks called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, January 20, 2023.

## Approval of Agenda

Commissioner James Whiting made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice President Erin Weisman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## Annual Investment Report

President Hawks introduced Mike Merback, the Bar's investment consultant from RBC Wealth Management. Mr. Merback stated that he wished to discuss three things with the Board today: 1) the markets in 2022; 2) the Bar's investment performance; and 3) the outlook for 2023.

Mike Merback shared that 2022 was an historically bad year for the stock market. The Dow, the S&P 500 and the NASDAQ were all down. He shared that what made last year an historically bad year was the downturn in the bond market and the fact that bonds fell in concert with the stock market, which is very rare. He shared that some experts indicated it was the worst downturn in bonds in 50 years.

Mr. Merback reminded the Board that we started the investment account in 2018. He distributed a document showing the performance of the Bar's investment account over time. He discussed the outcome for each calendar year and reported that even with the historic

downturn in stocks and bonds in 2022, the average annualized return since inception is 3.45% per year.

Mike Merback discussed the importance of reviewing each asset class and walked the Board through each class. He shared that in a couple of weeks, he will meet with Sharon Wilkinson and Mark Gifford to look at every holding in order to determine if they are still viable and still best in class. As importantly we will rebalance so that we are within our target ranges in accordance with the Investment Policy Statement.

In regard to 2023, Mr. Merback shared that he has many resources at his fingertips. Some expect a choppy market throughout the year. He shared that they are already seeing an improvement in bonds, so some experts are picking bonds over stocks. Some think interest rate hikes will come to an end in 2023, as they think inflation has peaked.

Mike Merback reminded the Board that when it started down this road 4½ years ago, the Board chose to take a more conservative stance with a 50/50 split between stocks and bonds. He shared that he thinks that is a great place to be, as stocks will rebalance eventually.

Treasurer Kelly Neville shared that organizations react to their investment portfolios differently. Some think when things are down, a common reaction may be to respond to the market. She shared that the Investment Committee has had that discussion; however, all members understand that this is a long-term investment and we should continue to adhere to the Investment Policy Statement.

President Hawks asked Mr. Merback if there are any costs associated with rebalancing considering the Bar is not taxable. Mr. Merback clarified that there is no cost to rebalancing.

Executive Director Sharon Wilkinson reminded the Board that the Investment Committee is made up of members of the Executive Committee and herself.

Past President Ken Barbe shared that he was on the Investment Committee when the policy was put in place. They had discussions about what was on the horizon—one year? Three year? The committee ultimately decided it was a 10-year commitment.

Mike Merback shared that the average annualized return is the most important number to look at, as it really is the indicator of how well the portfolio is doing. Past President Barbe shared that even at 3.45%, that is still above what the Bar was earning in CDs years ago.

Mr. Merback distributed a more detailed review of the investment accounts and left the meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Whiting made a motion to approve the November 4, 2022, meeting minutes. Commissioner Stefanie Boster seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

President Hawks directed the Board's attention to the minutes from the Executive Committee's meetings and asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Neville shared that the income and expenses are very typical after the first quarter of the year and commented that the majority of the income is from license fees. She referred the Board to the balance sheet that shows the Bar's checking account, savings account and CDs. She reminded the Board that these accounts and CDs are outside of the portfolio that Mike Merback manages. Treasurer Neville shared that rates on CDs are improving, so she has been working with Cathy Duncil, Bookkeeper, to identify other opportunities for better earnings.

Commissioner Alison Gee commented that the balance sheet shows a negative balance for the checking account and wondered why. Treasurer Neville explained that it is a sweep account that automatically sweeps from savings to checking so it is only a negative balance on paper.

Commissioner Gee made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Whiting seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Admissions Report**

Cathy Duncil shared that the February Bar exam will be administered the last Tuesday and Wednesday of February in Cheyenne. She reported that there are 33 signed up to sit for the exam—15 of which are new test takers and the remaining applicants are retakers.

Ms. Duncil reported that there are still two July applicants who have not yet received their results, as one was referred to the Character and Fitness Committee for a hearing, and Melinda McCorkle, Deputy Bar Counsel, is currently investigating the other.

Cathy Duncil and Mark Gifford provided an overview of a Character and Fitness Hearing they attended on January 4<sup>th</sup> in Casper and explained the behavior that led to this applicant's hearing.

Commissioner Gee asked how many of the applicants that did not pass the Bar exam last time have chosen not to take the exam again. Cathy Duncil shared that there are ten or fewer.

President Hawks shared that he is on the committee of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) that reviews Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) questions before they are final. He recalled that the questions for the upcoming February exam are noticeably more difficult.

### **Annual Audit Report**

Robert Dahill, partner at McGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLP in Cheyenne, joined the meeting. He shared that he has taken over the administration of the Bar's account since Wayne Herr's retirement in June 2022. He told the Board a bit about his background.

Mr. Dahill distributed the Financial and Compliance Report and shared that the financial statements that are presented are in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS). He was pleased to report that it is a clean or unmodified opinion. He briefly discussed the auditing standards.

Robert Dahill shared that there were few significant changes from 2021 to 2022. The most significant change was that the market declined so the investments decreased in value. There were no significant changes to the Bar's liabilities and net position. He also noted that revenues were down a bit simply because of the \$175,000 settlement with West Edge Collective recognized in 2021 that was not replicated in 2022. He shared that operating expenses were up simply due to increased activities that took place during the year.

Mark Gifford commented that though the Bar lost approximately \$240,000 on its investments, the overall net operating loss was \$190,000. Mr. Dahill confirmed that but for the loss on investments, the income statement would have reflected net income of approximately \$50,000.

Mr. Dahill explained that the Bar's participation in the Wyoming Retirement System (WRS) is the most significant aspect of the balance sheet. He shared that no matter what, that liability will exist due to the fact that the pension plan is underfunded. He explained the theory that if the plan failed, WRS could request money from the participant entities. He thinks that is unlikely, however, as the WRS is funded at 85-90%.

Mark Gifford asked Mr. Dahill if the liability for the pension plan is reflected on the Bar's income statement. Mr. Dahill clarified that it is reflected on the income statement and referred the Board to page 21 of the report.

Mr. Dahill shared that his firm is required by Government Accounting Standards to ensure that there are internal controls in place at the Bar. He was pleased to report that they did not come across anything that indicated a lack of internal controls.

Robert Dahill shared that the audit went very smoothly and there are no significant issues that were discussed with the staff that the auditors are not sharing with the Board. He shared that the staff was extremely cooperative and got the auditors everything they requested. He reported no contentious matters whatsoever.

President Hawks asked Mr. Dahill if there was anything he wished to discuss with the Board without the staff present. Mr. Dahill said there was nothing.

Cathy Duncil shared her appreciation for the two gentlemen in Mr. Dahill's firm that she worked with throughout the audit. She feels fortunate to work with them.

Treasurer Neville shared that she visited with the staff earlier this week about the outcome of the audit. She expressed her appreciation to the staff for all the work that went into the audit and throughout the year to ensure for a smooth audit.

Commissioner Whiting made a motion to accept the audit report. Treasurer Neville seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Mandatory CLE**

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that 158 members were assessed the \$300 delinquency fee on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, for not being in compliance with their 2022 CLE requirements. She shared that those assessments will generate over \$47,000 for the Bar. She compared that to last year when 186 members were assessed the delinquency fee. Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that those 158 members now have until March 1, 2023, to not only pay the fee but to also submit the required CLE hours for 2022. Those who are still not compliance on March 1<sup>st</sup> will be assessed an additional \$300 noncompliance fee and will be recommended for suspension to the Wyoming Supreme Court.

### **Office of Bar Counsel**

Mark Gifford directed the Board's attention to his written report in the meeting materials and shared that this report recaps all of 2022, which was a busy year for the Office of Bar Counsel.

He shared that among the big picture items is the fact that we are still waiting for the Supreme Court to decide on the Manlove case, as oral argument was held in mid-August 2022.

Mark Gifford reported that there was a two-day disciplinary hearing at the Bar office last month. Vice President Erin Weisman asked Mr. Gifford if the rules require the Bar to provide a legal notice about disciplinary hearings. He clarified that there was no such requirement. He reminded the Board that the Rules of Disciplinary Procedure provide that everything from the formal charge forward is available to the public upon request but the Bar does not actively publicize those details.

Mark Gifford reported that there are two reports and recommendations at the Supreme Court for public censures for two different lawyers. He also shared that Sam Krone, a disbarred lawyer, has petitioned for reinstatement; his recommendation for reinstatement is also pending at the Court. He also shared that his office is currently investigating a white-collar crime scenario involving a member of the Bar.

Mr. Gifford shared that Melinda McCorkle, Deputy Bar Counsel, started three-quarter time on October 1, 2022, and it has made a noticeable difference to have her in the building more. They both stay very busy with Ethics Hotline calls.

Vice President Weisman asked Mr. Gifford if there are any trends in attorney discipline that he could identify based on the complaints being submitted. Mr. Gifford indicated that the office is just seeing more and more broken lawyers who are not functioning effectively in their practices. He indicated that he can understand how lawyers struggle to keep up with emails and other communication with their clients. Those lawyers tend to isolate and shut out reality and the pandemic made it a more conducive environment for such behavior.

### **Law School Endowment Report**

Treasurer Neville reminded the Board that the endowment agreement with the law school sets a general purpose, which is to support programs to introduce University of Wyoming College of Law students to rural practice in Wyoming. She reminded the Board that the total endowment will be \$100,000 once the Bar's \$50,000 contribution is matched by the state. She shared that the agreement indicates that the priority is for "the most affected rural communities," but that term is oftentimes difficult to define. Treasurer Neville reminded the Board that it wanted to maintain control of how the funds are allocated instead of simply handing the money over to the law school. She shared that eventually we will want to establish a committee to select the recipient of the money and determine exactly how the funds are awarded. Fortunately, the Bar gets to structure the process however we wish. She reminded the Board that Executive Director Wilkinson signed the agreement in September 2022 and the money sits in a holding pattern for one year. She just wants to make sure that when September rolls around, we have a plan in place.

Commissioner Jennifer Kirk offered to continue serving on the select committee to make those decision. Commissioner Kevin Kessner also offered to continue serving.

President Hawks shared that a Circuit Court judge and Chief Justice Fox both contacted him about these rural practice issues, so he wondered if there was a disconnect somewhere. Treasurer Neville shared that Executive Director Wilkinson pulled her and Ashli Tomisich into President Hawks' upcoming meeting with the Chief Justice.

Commissioner Gee shared that one of the changes she has seen over her career is that judges no longer have term clerks. She felt that used to be a very effective training ground for young lawyers, but now judges have career clerks so those opportunities are much more limited. Treasurer Neville encouraged President Hawks to bring this up during his meeting with the Chief Justice.

Commissioner Kirk shared that she recently learned of a "cessation loan" program through the Wyoming Business Council that specifically targets rural areas. She explained that few young people have the capital to purchase a business, so this loan program helps. She recalls that the Board had discussed a micro-loan program and wondered if we could partner with the Wyoming Business Council on a similar program.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that Chief Justice Fox asked her to gather resources from South Dakota regarding its rural practice initiative. She did so and shared the information with Chief Justice Fox. She also indicated that she would share the information with the full Board. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she has been trying to gather the data that would paint an accurate picture of the declining number of lawyers in the smaller Wyoming counties; however, the data is somewhat deceiving. She explained that the data does not account for those members who still maintain "Active" status but are no longer practicing and haven't been for years. She shared that the data also does not indicate which members are government attorneys. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she would work to refine the data and share it with the Board.

President Hawks asked if there had been any studies to determine the legal needs in these smaller counties. Commissioner Kirk shared that there is a large demand in Big Horn, Park, Hot Springs and Washakie Counties but there is a limited population of people who can afford to pay an attorney.

Mark Gifford shared that he sees the fact that the Chief Justice of our Supreme Court is interested in pursuing something similar to the legislatively funded program in South Dakota is significant, as the Wyoming State Bar has always had a stubborn independent streak. Treasurer Neville agreed and reminded the Board that with the energy recession, budgets have been a challenge. She is optimistic that there could be some momentum there.

### **Wyoming Professional Assistance Program (WPAP) Self-Check Questionnaire**

Candice Cochran, Executive Director of WPAP, joined the meeting via Zoom. She shared that her organization has been working with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to roll out a tool that provides a 10-minute confidential self-check. Once the user completes the assessment, WPAP's clinicians can access the same portal and give referrals for treatment or provide other resources, and the user can remain completely anonymous. Ms. Cochran shared that they recently had a licensed professional complete the self-check, participated in dialogue with clinicians through the portal, enrolled with WPAP but unfortunately relapsed over the holidays. She was pleased to report that because of the effectiveness of the portal, that person is now in residential treatment. Ms. Cochran shared that just yesterday, they hit 100 people who have completed the self-check. She shared her screen and demonstrated the self-check.

Candice Cochran shared that she and Executive Director Wilkinson have discussed sending the information to Wyoming State Bar members and encouraging them to complete the self-check. Users come up with any user I.D. and password but are not identified in any way. Ms. Cochran showcased all of the questions users will be asked. Topics included substance abuse, eating disorders, depression, burn-out, suicidal ideation, etc. She shared that there are some demographic questions, but all of those have a "prefer not to answer" option.

Ms. Cochran also shared that there is an option for the user to include his or her email address, but it is only an option. The email address simply allows the user to receive an email notification once the clinician responds through the portal.

She described how the questionnaires are triaged through the system once completed. If a user is considering suicide, for example, that would be marked as "top tier" and the user would hear from a clinician within 24 hours. Ms. Cochran shared that even though that is the standard, she has seen those addressed within 12 hours.

Candice Cochran shared that when other licensing agencies sent out the initial email, the response rates and click-through rates have been tremendous and have been averaging over 50%.

After discussion, it was determined that Executive Director Wilkinson would send out the initial email transmitting the questionnaire with a follow-up by Jack Speight, Wyoming Lawyer Assistance Program Director.

### **Health Insurance**

Executive Director Wilkinson directed the Board's attention to the Executive Committee meeting minutes from December 7, 2022. She shared that Cathy Duncil contacts Blue Cross Blue Shield each year prior to starting the budgeting process to inquire about any upcoming cost increases. Over the years, Ms. Duncil has always been told to factor in a 10% increase to the premiums. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that as long as she has been the Executive Director, they had never seen a 10% increase—typically 2-3% increases. She shared that this year, the premiums increased by 13%. She reminded the Board that it approved a budget with only the 10% increase.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she took other lower cost options before the Executive Committee for its consideration, but the Executive Committee voted unanimously to renew the top tier benefit plan for the staff with the 13% increase. Executive Director Wilkinson asked the Board to ratify the Executive Committee's decision.

Commissioner Whiting made a motion to ratify the decision made by the Executive Committee to renew the same health insurance plan for the staff at the 13% increase. Commissioner Gee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **President's Report**

President Hawks shared that he is meeting with Chief Justice Fox for an hour next Tuesday to discuss the rural practice issue. He reported that he attended a National Conference of Bar Examiners meeting in San Diego last month. He shared that a big part of that discussion was the roll-out of NextGen, the new bar exam that will first be administered in 2026. He shared that the NCBE will no longer provide the Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) components once NextGen is rolled out. He emphasized that if Wyoming does not adopt NextGen, we would have to come up with our own exam.

President Hawks shared that he is working with Executive Director Wilkinson to begin planning for this year's Annual Meeting & Judicial Conference. He is trying to find a keynote speaker and has found it to be more difficult than he thought it would be. Commissioner Craig Silva encouraged President Hawks to consider working with the Tenth Circuit Historical Society, as they have great resources. President Hawks said he would consider that and asked the Board members to share any ideas they may have.

### **President-Elect Report**

President-Elect Anna Reeves Olson shared that she has heard from a few judges who were disappointed to see the constitutional amendment affecting judges' mandatory retirement age.



Ms. Olson referenced an email that Mark Gifford recently sent to some legislators encouraging them to support salary increases for members of the judiciary. Mr. Gifford shared what the content of that email was. There was discussion about the salaries of judges in comparison to salaries of the Attorney General, the Casper City Attorney and private practice attorneys. He reported that he got responses from the legislators indicating that the committee did approve significant raises.

### **Vice President's Report**

Vice President Weisman shared that her district has a lot of new judges. Judge Kate McKay has taken the bench and she has heard good things. She also reported that the consensus in Teton County is more favorable about Judge Hawes transitioning from Sublette County to Teton County. She reported that Judge Owens has been on the bench for a year and is doing a great job.

Vice President Weisman shared that one of her concerns is the lost art of court reporting. She worries about how that will change and evolve. She shared that interpreters are in short supply—not only for victims but courts have an obligation to provide interpreters for all kinds of cases.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that the Supreme Court suspended 13 lawyers for their failure to pay their 2022/2023 license fees. She is starting to hear from those lawyers who are receiving their Orders of Suspension. She also shared that the Supreme Court terminated 17 lawyers as a result of their 2021/2022 license fee suspensions. These lawyers never cured the suspension and were therefore terminated one year later.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she and Mark Gifford had lunch with Marilyn Kite, Chair of the Dean's Advisory Board, last month to discuss how to improve engagement between the Bar and the law school. An item of discussion was that if the faculty members were members of the Wyoming State Bar, they may have more interest in Bar activities. After learning that the faculty members were reluctant to join the Bar due to CLE requirements, Executive Director Wilkinson and Mark Gifford approached the Board of Continuing Legal Education to propose an exemption of the CLE requirements for faculty members of an ABA accredited law school. Executive Director Wilkinson reported that the Board of CLE was not a fan of the proposed exemption so it was tabled. She reported that because all faculty members could join the Bar and change their status to Inactive, that was a viable path to avoid CLE requirements. She reported that only the Dean had changed his status to Inactive and no member of the faculty has applied for admission.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that the Wyoming Legislature is currently in session. She reminded the Board that the Bar has a Legislative Developments Committee chaired by Cheyenne attorney Khale Lenhart. She and Mark Gifford meet with the committee on an as-needed basis during the session to discuss any proposed bills that would impact the legal profession. She shared that they are currently tracking a handful of bills but there is nothing

alarming about any of them. Executive Director Wilkinson encouraged the Board members to take a look at the list of proposed bills and let her know if there are any concerns.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she, Mark Gifford and Marie Ellis were invited to a meeting at the Supreme Court to discuss the Court's desire to host a week-long "Boot Camp" CLE for prosecutors and public defenders. She shared that overall, there is a concern that some of the basics are being overlooked in courtrooms across the state. Jenny Craig from the Wyoming Attorney General's Office and Diane Lozano, State Public Defender, were also in the meeting. There was discussion about some of the basics no longer being taught in law schools.

President Hawks shared that he recently had a discussion with a Circuit Court judge about lawyers not showing up prepared for court and in some instances, the lawyers are dressed inappropriately.

Commissioner Boster shared that when she graduated law school, she went through a "boot camp" that was sponsored by ALPS, so perhaps they would be a good partner.

Commissioner Dona Playton shared that she hopes we can continue a partnership between the law school and the Bar so that the law school can graduate students who are practice ready and have the skills that employers are looking for.

Ultimately, Executive Director Wilkinson shared that the Court was going to contact the head of the prosecutors' association to discuss the Boot Camp idea and they will be back in contact with the Bar.

### **Young Lawyer Section Report**

In Nick Dillinger's absence, Executive Director Wilkinson read a written report that was shared with her.

### **Commissioners' Reports**

- **First Judicial District**—Commissioner Boster reported that Laramie County has a new sheriff as well as a new District Attorney. She also shared that the Laramie County Bar Association had a meeting at which Equal Justice Wyoming presented.
- **Second Judicial District**—Commissioner Playton shared that there have not been any county bar meetings. Judge Westby is the new District Court judge there, and by all accounts, she has heard positive comments about her performance. She shared that Judge Westby asked her to be a commissioner, so she agreed and has been sworn in. Commissioner Playton shared that Judge Westby has a big murder case coming up. She also reported seeing their local judges at a legislative reception hosted by the Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association last week.
- **Third Judicial District**—Commissioner Jason Petri shared that he attended Judge Kaste's robing ceremony in Cheyenne and it was well attended. He has appeared before the new judge a few times and thinks he is doing a good job.

- **Fourth Judicial District**—Commissioner Kessner shared that the new judges in his judicial district are moving their dockets along effectively. He shared that he reached out to see when the county bars will meet and learned that they will be hosting some CLE this spring. He reported that there has been some turnover with county bar officers so they are trying to get up to speed.
- **Fifth Judicial District**—Commissioner Kirk shared that they have a new County Attorney in Washakie County, Tony Barton. They also have a new sheriff in Park County. She reported that she provided some training yesterday at the local hospital on Title 25. This came as a result of how the hospital has been handling the process. Commissioner Kirk shared that Judge Overfield is good about using term clerks.
- **Sixth Judicial District**—Commissioner Gee shared that they have a new County Attorney in Gillette. She reported that there was quite a heated mayoral race in Gillette with two strong candidates. The winner then left a vacancy on the city council. She shared that the mayoral candidates who lost the election was then appointed to fill the vacancy against the vote of the new mayor. Commissioner Gee shared that attorneys in her district have been experiencing problems with the District Court Clerks' offices, as orders are not always being sent to the lawyers in certain cases. She also shared that the Circuit Court clerks have missed providing documents to the file. She shared that this is creating some issues in efficiency, as they are receiving electronic notices with no follow-up copy by mail. The clerks' offices unfortunately do not have a way to set up who should be copied on what.
- **Seventh Judicial District**—Commissioner Silva shared that they have a new City Attorney in Casper, Eric Nelson. He shared that the County Attorney position is now vacant. He reported that Casper attorneys Dallas Laird and Peter Nicolaysen now serve on Casper's city council. Commissioner Silva reported that the Public Defender's Office stopped coming to drug court, so his office has taken that over. He shared that it is his understanding that the Public Defender's Office has been told to show up from now on. He shared that Natrona County is now set up for eFiling. He reminded everybody that all lawyers have to go through the eFiling training and pass the test in order to be able to eFile.
- **Eighth Judicial District**—Commissioner Shawn Wilde shared that Judge Buchanan has been sworn in and they are excited to have him on board. He shared that he was glad to hear that his judicial district is not the only one dealing with issues with the District Court clerks. He reported judges in his district having words with the clerks when the documents are not being sent out and the defendant is sitting in jail.
- **Ninth Judicial District**—Due to Commissioner Whiting having to leave the meeting early, Vice President Weisman reported that the Teton County Bar Association had a Christmas party that was well attended. She shared that her district does not have a struggle with the District Court clerks; however, she reported that there is a disconnect with the Circuit Court clerks.

#### **Board/Committee Liaison Reports**

- **Civil Pattern Jury Instructions Committee**—Commissioner Kessner shared that Judge Hibben took over as chair of the committee when Tori Kricken stepped down. He reported that the committee will continue to review and improve the instructions. He

shared that the last time the committee surveyed the membership about the instructions was 2018. He asked Executive Director Wilkinson if she has heard anything about another survey. She indicated that she has not.

- ***Continuing Legal Education Committee***—Commissioner Silva reported that CLE proposals for the Annual Meeting are due at the end of the month. The committee will begin meeting soon to discuss those.
- ***Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee***—Commissioner Silva reported that Judge Jones chair that committee. The committee is scheduled to meet next month.

President Christopher Hawks adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m. on Friday, January 20, 2023.

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Minutes Submitted by:

Sharon Wilkinson  
Executive Director