

Wyoming State Bar Board of Officers & Commissioners Meeting

June 10, 2022
Ramada Plaza
Sheridan, Wyoming

In Attendance: J. Kenneth Barbe, President; Christopher H. Hawks, President-Elect (via phone); Teresa S. Thybo, Vice President (via phone); Kelly M. Neville, Treasurer; Billie LM Addleman, Immediate Past President; Stefanie L. Boster, First Judicial District Commissioner; Sarah L. Chavez Harkins, Second Judicial District Commissioner (via phone); Jason Petri, Third Judicial District Commissioner; Kevin K. Kessner, Fourth Judicial District Commissioner; 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; James T. Whiting, Ninth Judicial District Commissioner; Emily S. Madden, Young Lawyer Section Chair; Sharon Wilkinson, Executive Director; Mark W. Gifford, Bar Counsel; and Cathy Duncil, Admissions Director

Guests: Mike Merback, RBC Wealth Management (via phone)
Angie Dorsch, Equal Justice Wyoming/Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation (via phone)

President J. Kenneth Barbe called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2022.

Approval of Agenda

Executive Director Sharon Wilkinson shared that, while it was not on the agenda, Ben Rose would be calling in to join the discussion about the proposed law school endowment at 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Craig Silva made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner James Whiting seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jennifer Kirk made a motion to approve the April 22, 2022, meeting minutes. Commissioner Silva seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

President Barbe offered to answer any questions about the Executive Committee's meeting minutes. There were none.

Admissions

Cathy Duncil, Admissions Director, reminded the Board that at the last meeting, she and Mark Gifford provided an update about an applicant that had undergone an independent medical evaluation (IME) at the request of the Character and Fitness Committee. She reported that once the Committee reviewed the results of the IME, it did not reopen the hearing. She is now waiting on the Committee's recommendation.

Ms. Duncil reported that there are 59 applicants registered to sit for the July Bar exam, and it will take place in person in Laramie.

Ms. Duncil reported that a group made up of members of the Board of Law Examiners, members of the Character and Fitness Committee, members of the staff, Shawna Goetz, Clerk of the Wyoming Supreme Court, and Hon. Kari Jo Gray, the Court's admissions liaison, attended the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) Annual Admissions Conference in New Orleans last month. She provided an overview of the conference offerings and shared that in one session, there was much discussion about a certain question on the NCBE application that asks applicants if they have a condition or impairment that could potentially affect the applicant's ability to practice law in a competent, ethical and professional manner. Ms. Duncil reported that Wyoming does ask this question. She shared that some worry that applicants may not seek the help they need for such an impairment if they thought it could potentially prevent them from being admitted to practice law. She shared that she and Mark Gifford met with the Character and Fitness Committee and the Board of Law Examiners to discuss this, and all were in agreement to remove this question from Wyoming's NCBE application.

Mark Gifford agreed that it was an interesting presentation and shared that Wyoming is the fourth state to drop this question. He shared that while the main focus of the question was to learn of substance/alcohol abuse or a mental, emotional or nervous disorder, the presenter pointed out that there are many other conditions that could impact an applicant's ability to practice law, such as cancer, diabetes, etc.

Cathy Duncil shared that another topic of conversation at the conference was the next generation of the Bar exam, which is known as NextGen. She shared that when these discussions first began, there was much talk about giving the exam in testing centers; however, it was later determined that there were not enough testing centers around the country. There was also discussion about the registration process and how special testing accommodations would be handled. She shared that much has changed since these conversations began.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she wants to ensure that the Board of Law Examiners, the Character and Fitness Committee and even the Board of Officers & Commissioners are educated about NextGen because it is coming and will be very different. She shared that the incoming law school class in 2023 will be the first class to experience NextGen, as it is slated to roll out in 2026. Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that the decision to adopt NextGen is ultimately the Wyoming Supreme Court's. As a result, she shared that she would also like to pull the Court into this discussion as well as the law

school. She shared that she has already invited Darin Scheer to attend the Board's August meeting to discuss NextGen. Mr. Scheer is currently the Bar's Delegate to the ABA, a member of the Board of Law Examiners and a member of the NCBE Board of Directors. She shared that Mr. Scheer has arranged for Hon. Cyndi Martin, Chair of the NCBE Board of Directors, to also join the meeting either via Zoom or phone.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that Colorado has expressed concern about NextGen and has indicated that it would not adopt it. She shared that Cathy Duncil had visited with Colorado's Admissions Director and learned that representatives from the NCBE would be traveling to Colorado for these discussions after the New Orleans conference. Executive Director Wilkinson asked Ms. Duncil to follow up to see what the outcome of those discussions were.

Cathy Duncil shared that it was her impression that Colorado simply wanted more control over where the testing would take place and who would make decisions about special testing accommodations. She also shared that if Colorado does not adopt NextGen, it will impact Wyoming.

Executive Director Wilkinson clarified that if states choose not to adopt NextGen, they will be on their own to administer their own exam. The NCBE is not offering another alternative.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kelly Neville shared that we are about two-thirds through the fiscal year. She reported that she is working with the staff to develop the proposed budget for the next fiscal year and shared that the Board could expect to see the proposed budget by the end of July in preparation for the August meeting.

Commissioner Stefanie Boster made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Kevin Kessner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mandatory CLE

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that it reviewed the proposed amendments made to the CLE Rules as well as the members' comments about those at the April meeting. She shared that the Supreme Court has approved those amendments and the new rules will go into effect July 5, 2022.

Attorney Discipline

Mark Gifford, Bar Counsel, shared that his office is currently on pace to hit 125-150 complaints for the year, which is typical. He shared that there is currently nothing in formal charge; however, Melinda McCorkle, Deputy Bar Counsel, has requested authority to file a formal charge and is waiting to hear from the Review and Oversight Committee (ROC). He shared that there are two private reprimands pending before the ROC and a recommendation for one lawyer's disbarment and another lawyer's public censure on file at the Supreme Court.

Mr. Gifford shared that he had a two-day hearing at the Bar office with no press coverage. He shared that what he anticipates from most disciplinary hearings from this point forward is if the case is already a high-profile case before the hearing, it will draw the attention of the media. However, he shared that most hearings will not be high profile, which will keep the cost down. He shared that the total cost of the recent two-day hearing was minimal.

Mark Gifford shared that Becket Hinckley, a suspended lawyer, was ordered by the Supreme Court to reimburse the Bar by June 1, 2022, for the cost of his hearing, but he did not. Mr. Gifford shared that he contacted Mr. Hinckley's lawyer to see if he had any intention of paying and learned that Mr. Hinckley wished to pay but did not have the money. Mr. Gifford shared that the Bar would turn this over to collections to see if it yields anything.

Client Protection Fund

Mark Gifford shared that there are two matters pending—one involving a disbarred lawyer and the other for a suspended lawyer. He reported that the suspended lawyer will neither take or return calls nor respond to emails from his clients or from the Bar.

Fee Arbitration

Mark Gifford reported that Brandi Robinson has transitioned into the role of Assistant to Bar Counsel and will administer the Fee Arbitration Program with Rex Arney, the Committee Chair.

Investment Portfolio Update

Mike Merback, the Bar's financial advisor from RBC Wealth Management, joined the meeting by phone. Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that Mr. Merback typically participates in the January Board meeting to give his annual update; however, due to the extreme fluctuation of the market, she requested that he prepare a written update for the Board and also call in for today's meeting in case anybody had any questions or concerns they wished to discuss.

Mr. Merback shared that about three weeks ago, he conducted an in-depth review of all of the Bar's holdings and studied all of the analysts' outlooks about the current state of the market. He shared that as a result of that, he only made a couple of small changes to the Bar's portfolio. He also provided an overview of the memo included in the Board meeting materials.

Mr. Merback reported that even with all of the fluctuations, everything still falls within the acceptable range of each asset class in the Investment Policy.

Mr. Merback shared that overnight, inflation numbers were announced through the month of May. He was hoping May would show some improvement but it did not. He shared that his personal belief is it will be another rough couple of months until inflation comes down and the Russia/Ukraine situation is resolved.

Commissioner Shawn Wilde asked Mr. Merback if he had enough flexibility on the international fixed income asset class or did the Board need to adjust that. Mr. Merback shared that he felt he did have enough flexibility and an adjustment was not necessary.

Mike Merback reminded the Board that even the experts will tell you that the market will always surprise you. He shared that it is always better to maintain a plan and follow it and that is exactly what the Bar has done. He thinks the Bar has a good, solid, long-term plan in place.

Results of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Section Survey

Executive Director Wilkinson directed the Board's attention to the results of the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Section Survey that was conducted in April. She shared that she also shared the results with the DEI Section Council.

Mark Gifford shared that the response rate to the survey was very low (11%). He commented that this response rate is about one-third of the response rate the Bar typically sees on other surveys.

Commissioner Alison Gee commented on the fact that gender and age discrimination appear to be the biggest concern of those who took the survey. She shared that at the Western States Bar Conference, she learned of other DEI resources that are available.

President Barbe shared that he struggled to make heads or tails of the results but did notice that reports of gender and age discrimination were high.

Strategic Plan Progress Report

Executive Director Wilkinson directed the Board's attention to the written progress report and asked if anybody had any questions. Cathy Duncil reported that she and Brandi Robinson are working on Goal 3, Objective A (the online attorney service directory) and have recruited some Board members to help them accomplish this goal.

In reference to the Solo, Small & Rural Law Forum Wrap-Up Report, Treasurer Neville shared that she thought the evaluations showed positive feedback for future programming. She liked how Jared Correia's program was a really unique presentation on different types of billing and was very much focused on how to run your law practice. She reminded the Board that the small/solo working group is focused on three areas: 1) How lawyers can work with younger lawyers to expose them to practice, 2) tools and resources for Wyoming's small/solo practitioners, and 3) helping lawyers set up and also transition out of practice.

President Barbe asked how the working group identified "rural." Treasurer Neville shared that the group looked at per capita by county, but it removed Albany, Laramie, Natrona and Teton Counties. She also shared that Professor Romero, who also serves on the small/solo working group, defines "rural" as underserved communities.

Ratification of Salary Adjustments

Executive Director Wilkinson reported that Erin Sidwell, Assistant to Bar Counsel, turned in her resignation in May. As a result, Brandi Robinson, Lawyer Referral Service Coordinator and Clerk to the Board of Professional Responsibility (BPR), expressed interest in transitioning into the Assistant to Bar Counsel position. After discussion with Mark Gifford and Melinda McCorkle, the decision was made to make the transition. Executive Director Wilkinson

provided an overview of how she, Mr. Gifford and Ms. McCorkle arrived at the recommended salary for Ms. Robinson in the new position considering she has worked for the Bar for 13 years.

Executive Director Wilkinson reported that she hired a new Lawyer Referral Service Coordinator and Clerk to the BPR. Jenelle Olivas started in her new position on June 6, 2022. She provided an overview of how she arrived at the recommended salary for Ms. Olivas.

Executive Director Wilkinson reported that the Executive Committee approved the salary recommendations but reminded the Board that the Bylaws require the full Board to ratify any decision made by the Executive Committee.

Commissioner Gee made a motion to ratify the salary adjustments for the Assistant to Bar Counsel as well as the Lawyer Referral Service Coordinator/BPR Clerk. Commissioner Whiting seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Equal Justice Wyoming Funding Proposal

Angie Dorsch, the Executive Director of Equal Justice Wyoming (EJW) and the Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation (EJWF), joined the meeting by phone. She explained that EJW is the Court program that administers state-funded civil legal services and access to justice efforts, and EJWF manages the IOLTA program and does private fundraising. Ms. Dorsch thanked the Board for its support of EJW and appreciates the partnership with the Bar for the pro bono program. She also thanked the Board for the \$25,000 matching grant opportunity as well as the line item on the license fee statement that generates revenue for the Foundation.

Angie Dorsch provided an overview of EJW's financial situation and mentioned that she is doing her best to be fiscally responsible with all of the fees from different sources. She reported that her budget is from the Legislature—court fees and assessments go into a special revenue account. She shared that she has to appear before the Joint Appropriations Committee every other year to request an appropriation from those funds.

Ms. Dorsch referenced the financial information that was included in the Board meeting materials and reported that EJW is living well within its authorized budget; however, in looking at the civil legal services fees deposited, revenue has really decreased. As a result, she reported that they have been trying to find any additional revenue to support the programs they provide. Ms. Dorsch shared that they have done what they can internally to cut expenditures; in fact, they have had a vacant staff position for two years. She shared that they have tried to continue funding their grantees, but they have used over \$500,000 of reserves to maintain grant funding and her Board has determined that it cannot continue to dip into reserves.

Commissioner Gee shared that she noticed there was a big dip in Circuit Court funding. Angie Dorsch reported that there has been an overall decline in the number of cases. Commissioner Gee wondered if that might increase now that court is actually being held in most places

around Wyoming. Ms. Dorsch indicated that she hopes those will increase; however, she has seen a steady decrease in the number of cases even pre-pandemic.

Angie Dorsch provided an overview of the Bar's contributions to EJW through pro hac fees. She reminded the Board that in 2018, the \$200 per fee contribution was reduced to \$100 per fee. She shared that she has \$11,000 remaining and that is what was used to stabilize their grant funding. She reported that if there was any way the Bar could increase the per-fee contribution, those funds would be dedicated to civil legal services.

Mark Gifford asked Ms. Dorsch where they are on raising the matching funds for the \$25,000. Ms. Dorsch reported that they have raised almost \$30,000; however, not all of that qualifies for the match.

Commissioner Silva asked Ms. Dorsch what her specific ask was.

Angie Dorsch shared that she is open to other options or suggestions, but she is in hopes that the Bar could increase the pro hac vice fee so that the per-fee contribution to EJW could also increase.

Mark Gifford shared that at \$500 per application, Wyoming is about 50% higher on pro hac vice fees than the national mean. He shared that if the Bar goes back to \$200 per fee to EJW instead of the current \$100 per fee, that will impact the Bar's revenue. Mr. Gifford suggested increasing the matching grant from \$25,000 to \$37,500 and asked Ms. Dorsch if she could meet that challenge. Ms. Dorsch indicated that she would do whatever she could to meet that goal.

Commissioner Gee mentioned how hard Ms. Dorsch works and thanked her for the good work that she does on behalf of EJW and EJWF.

Angie Dorsch reminded the Board that the contributions to EJWF from the license fee statement do not count towards the matching grant—only the funds they receive outside of that count. Ms. Dorsch asked if there could be some consideration that the license fee contributions could count towards the match.

Angie Dorsch left the meeting.

Commissioner Shawn Wilde shared that his recollection when the Board issued the \$25,000 matching challenge was that it was a one-time-only offer, but now the Bar seems to have become a funding source on which EJWF relies. Commissioner Jennifer Kirk shared that she is willing to give EJWF some grace due to Covid.

Commissioner Wilde shared his concern that our members already have the opportunity to contribute to EJWF through the line item on the license fee statement. Even if members choose not to, the Bar is still contributing members' license fees to the organization.

Commissioner Gee wondered if we could have a representative from this Board address their board. Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that Commissioner Wilde serves on the EJW Board as an ex-officio member.

Commissioner Gee made a motion to match up to \$40,000 of funding to Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation in response to the proposal starting next fiscal year. Commissioner Stefanie Boster seconded the motion. Commissioner Gee stated that she does not propose that we count the revenue generated from the license fee statement towards the match.

President-Elect Chris Hawks shared that he is aware that Wyoming's pro hac vice fees are high, but he asked if out-of-state lawyers complain about the fee. Cathy Duncil indicated that she has never heard any complaints.

Past President Billie Addleman wondered if EJWF could significantly increase the revenue generated on the license fee statement, then perhaps those funds could qualify for the match.

After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Law School Endowment

Treasurer Neville reminded the Board that there is an initiative in the Strategic Plan addressing small/solo firms—specifically, an effort to increase the dialogue about the benefits of small practice and what it is like to be a solo practitioner. She reported that there is now a course in the law school curriculum, so hopefully graduates will not be reluctant to go out on their own.

Treasurer Neville shared that in the past, the Bar has contributed about \$2,000 per year to law school scholarships. She shared that the proposed endowment would be a one-time \$50,000 contribution with an opportunity to get a legislative match. The endowment would help get law students out in small communities with the hope that they would go back to practice law after graduation. She shared that South Dakota has had success with a similar program.

Ben Rose, Director of Development & Gift Planning for the University of Wyoming, joined the meeting by phone. He explained that the Bar could either pay the \$50,000 all at once, or it could agree to a five-year commitment and pay \$10,000 per year. He shared that at the end of the five years, the money would be invested and matched by the state, but there is a one-year waiting period while the money is invested and generates income. Mr. Rose shared that a \$100,000 investment would generate \$4,000 per year. He shared that part of their thinking is this money would defray the cost of a law student to do a summer internship—the scholarship would provide \$4,000 and the employer would fund another \$4,000 to make it a worthwhile internship for students.

Ben Rose also shared that others could contribute to the endowment and that goes on in perpetuity. The fund itself will grow in the long term as the investments mature.

Mr. Rose also shared that the law school is doing an expansion and renovation that will break ground this summer. While it is fully funded, there are several rooms in the law school that are

available for naming rights. He shared that if the Bar were to pursue the endowment at \$100,000, he would advocate for putting the Wyoming State Bar's name on a room.

Commissioner Wilde asked how the fund would be targeted at rural communities. Mr. Rose clarified that the endowment would not be for students who are going to big firms or going to clerk for a judge; this is for students who want to go to a rural community. Mr. Rose discussed the law school's Legal Liftoff program.

Treasurer Neville shared that the next step if we agree to move forward with this is to develop an endowment agreement setting parameters. The law school would then be responsible for administering that. She shared that the agreement includes a "criteria" paragraph, so the Bar would determine how it wants the funds administered each year—how narrowly or broadly. She also shared that she would like the law school to extend an invitation to a member of the Bar to participate in the selection process so the Bar would have input.

Commissioner Gee thanked Ben Rose, Treasurer Neville and other members of the small/solo working group. She shared that one of the Bar's goals has to do with partnering with the law school, but since she has been on the Board, she has seen that as a one-way street. She is concerned that the Bar would be contributing money but not necessarily gaining a strengthened relationship with the law school. Commissioner Gee also shared that she is excited that there are opportunities for these internships, but she has never heard of them before and wondered how they are being marketed to lawyers around the state.

Treasurer Neville shared that the Legal Liftoff program is run by Ashli Tomisich, who is also a member of the small/solo working group. She indicated that the law school is really trying to build better relations with the Bar and she thinks Ms. Tomisich would welcome any feedback about communicating better with Wyoming lawyers.

Ben Rose shared that the Legal Liftoff program is fairly new and the law school is only able to administer the program in a very limited capacity. Emily Madden shared that she took advantage of the Legal Liftoff program while she was in law school and there were only available opportunities in Cheyenne and Laramie. She thinks funding would allow other parts of the state to participate.

Commissioner Kirk asked if the Legal Liftoff program could go anywhere in the state if it was funded properly. Treasurer Neville shared that there was a student in the program who went to Kemmerer this year; however, the employer had an apartment the student could use.

Mark Gifford shared that when he learned about the proposed endowment, he looked in the Bar's membership database and discovered that since the Bar adopted the Uniform Bar Exam in 2013, three-quarters of our incoming members did not attend the University of Wyoming. He shared that this fact should not drive the decision, but he certainly thinks it should be a factor. From his perspective, he would like to see a little more meat on the skeleton on the launch of this program. He would like to have a better understanding of what it is going to look like.

Treasurer Neville shared that many hours are devoted to drafting the endowment agreement, so she wanted to approach the Board without one first to see if there was a general interest in the concept.

Ben Rose left the meeting.

President Barbe shared that as a concept, he likes the idea of the endowment. He thinks that rural practitioners do need help and the Bar needs to make certain those communities continue to be served by lawyers. He shared that he is not certain this will accomplish that, but only time will tell. He reported being in support of it subject to agreeing on an endowment agreement.

Commissioner Kirk shared that she would rather contribute the money up front while the match is still available; however, she understands the importance of getting a good agreement in place first.

Commissioner Kirk made a motion to fund the \$50,000 to get the endowment started subject to the endowment agreement being approved. Commissioner Kessner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President Barbe asked for the Board's thoughts on naming a room at the law school. Commissioner Wilde shared that he likes the idea of putting the Bar's name on the endowment but not on a room simply because those naming rights are a fundraising opportunity for the law school. President Barbe agreed and indicated that the Bar will pass on the naming of a room.

President Barbe asked for volunteers to serve on the committee to work on the endowment agreement. Commissioner Kessner, Commissioner Kirk and Treasurer Neville volunteered to serve on that committee. All agreed that once a draft agreement was prepared, Mark Gifford would review it.

Executive Director Wilkinson asked for some direction as to when the \$50,000 should be paid—this fiscal year or next. After discussion, it was agreed that it would be ideal to pay during this current fiscal year so prior to October 1, 2022.

Jackrabbit Bar Conference Report

President Barbe reported that he attended the Jackrabbit Bar Conference in Deadwood, South Dakota last week along with Vice President Thybo, Treasurer Neville, Commissioner Kirk, Mark Gifford and Sharon Wilkinson. He shared that it was a very enjoyable conference with interesting programs not necessarily CLE-worthy. He provided an overview of the programs and also discussed the various "role call of the states" reports from other Bars.

Attorney General's Pro Bono Legal Services Policy

Cathy Duncil reported that she has been working with a small taskforce to propose to Attorney General Bridget Hill that the staff at the AG's Office be allowed to participate in pro

bono work on a limited basis. She shared that the original discussions began amongst the members of the Access to Justice Commission and Executive Director Wilkinson volunteered Ms. Duncil to participate as the Bar's Pro Bono Coordinator.

Ms. Duncil reported that the first draft of the proposal was shared with the Office of Bar Counsel. After discussions there, Melinda McCorkle wrote a very detailed memo with some suggested changes to the draft policy. Ms. Duncil reported that many of Ms. McCorkle's suggestions were adopted.

President's Report

President Barbe reported that he continues to enjoy speaking at the judicial robing ceremonies. He shared that there are two upcoming ceremonies in Casper, but he is only available for one. He shared that Commissioner Silva will speak at the other one.

He also encouraged the Board to read his President's column in the June *Wyoming Lawyer*. He shared that the concept for this month's column is, "What would I tell myself as a younger lawyer?" He shared that he worked with lawyers all over the state to get advice and he is pleased with how it turned out.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that the "call for nominations" was distributed to the membership on June 1st and that nominations are due July 1st. She walked the Board through all of the upcoming vacancies and encouraged those commissioners who could continue to serve to do so.

Young Lawyer Section Report

Emily Madden reported that the Young Lawyer Section Council is planning to host a reception for the judges on the Tuesday of the Annual Meeting & Judicial Conference.

Commissioners' Reports

- *First Judicial District*—Commissioner Boster reported that there is a lot of discussion in her district about the Laramie County District Attorney. She reported that there are two people seeking election to that office, as the current DA is not seeking reelection.
- *Second Judicial District*—Commissioner Sarah Chavez Harkins shared that the Carbon County Bar Association has expressed interest in hosting a barbecue when the Board of Officers & Commissioners is in Rawlins for the August meeting. She said she would connect Executive Director Wilkinson with the right person to coordinate everything.
- *Third Judicial District*—Commissioner Jason Petri reported that only five people were in attendance at a local bar meeting, so they discussed how to increase participation in the Sweetwater County Bar Association. He also shared that his district will soon have a new District Court judge in Uinta County.
- *Fourth Judicial District*—Commissioner Kessner shared that his district has a new District Court judge, Darci Phillips. He shared that feedback from other practitioners is indicative that she is doing a great job. He also shared that there will soon be a new

District Court judge in Johnson County and the attorneys there are looking forward to working with the new judge.

- *Fifth Judicial District*—No report
- *Sixth Judicial District*—Commissioner Gee reported that there has not been a local bar meeting in Campbell County in quite some time. She shared that one concern there is how few lawyers they have. In fact, her firm was appointed to be the civil attorney for Campbell County. Unfortunately, they have a great drug court but there is no defense counsel. She shared that there is plenty of work but not nearly enough attorneys to do it all.
- *Seventh Judicial District*—Commissioner Silva shared that he has learned of some lawyers who are interested in seeking public office, including the school board. He shared that Chief Justice Fox came to Casper and encouraged attorneys to consider applying for judicial vacancies.
- *Eighth Judicial District*—Commissioner Wilde shared that Judge Korell will be stepping down in August, so his district will have a new District Court judge.
- *Ninth Judicial District*—Commissioner Whiting reported that they are having many jury trials in Fremont County.

Board/Committee Liaison Reports

- *Civil Pattern Jury Instructions Committee*—Commissioner Kessner reported that they have not met since the April Board meeting, but he has seen some email traffic about some instruction updates.
- *Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee*—Vice President Thybo shared that the committee meets monthly. The Committee did amend instructions due to *Carter v. State*. There are four other subcommittees working on instructions.

President J. Kenneth Barbe adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m. on Friday, June 10, 2022.

Minutes Submitted by:

Sharon Wilkinson
Executive Director