

# Wyoming State Bar Board of Officers & Commissioners Meeting

November 19, 2021  
Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

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**In Attendance:** J. Kenneth Barbe, President; Christopher H. Hawks, President-Elect; Teresa S. Thybo, Vice President; Kelly M. Neville, Treasurer; Billie LM Addleman, Immediate Past President; Stefanie L. Boster, First Judicial District Commissioner; Sarah L. Chavez, Second Judicial District Commissioner; 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; Cathy Duncil, Admissions Director, and Jack Speight, WyLAP Director

**Guests:** Ben Burningham—Chancery Court Chief Counsel and Director; Angie Dorsch—Executive Director, Equal Justice Wyoming and Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation; Hon. Kate M. Fox, Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court

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President J. Kenneth Barbe called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m. on Friday, November 19, 2021.

## Approval of Agenda

President-Elect Chris Hawks made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Stefanie Boster seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Boster made a motion to approve the September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Commissioner Alison Gee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

President Barbe directed the Board's attention to the minutes of the Executive Committee conference calls and asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kelly Neville reported that license fees are coming in at a steady pace as expected. She brought the Board's attention to the line item for a temporary employee and reported that it is almost maxed out as a result of bringing Miranda Lane on board on a temporary basis before offering her a permanent position. Treasurer Neville also pointed out that the

investment expenses really vary from month to month and noted that even though we are only six weeks into the fiscal year, we have already spent 38% of those expenses. She also reminded the Board that there was discussion at the August meeting about Mark Gifford's health insurance situation, as he became Medicare eligible on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Treasurer Neville reported that we have \$1.5 million in the investment account, and we have put approximately \$1.3 million in that account over the years.

Commissioner Gee asked if the Board was considering investing some of the net income from the last fiscal year. Mark Gifford shared that some of it has already been invested; for instance, the settlement money from West Edge Collective. Cathy Duncil recommended waiting until after the annual audit is complete to have that discussion, as we do not know yet what adjustments will be made for depreciation or the unfunded pension liability.

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

### **Admissions**

Cathy Duncil shared that the February bar exam is scheduled to take place in person in Cheyenne. She reported that today is the application deadline, so she doesn't know exactly how many will sit for the exam, but there are typically around 30 applicants who sit for the February exam.

Ms. Duncil also reported that she and Mark Gifford participated in a character and fitness hearing via Zoom recently. Mark Gifford shared that as applicants' background checks are received from the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), Ms. Duncil reviews those and compares them to the applicants' law school applications for consistency. He reported that most of those background checks are fairly clean, and those applicants can be advanced; however, occasionally there is a need for additional investigation. The two of them make the call whether to advance the applicant for admission or refer them for a character and fitness hearing. Mr. Gifford shared the make-up of the Character and Fitness Committee and noted that it meets monthly by phone to review summaries of each applicant—debt, civil and criminal litigation, etc. He shared that if there is a hearing, he represents the Bar and the applicant may also be represented by counsel.

Mark Gifford reported that the hearing Ms. Duncil referred to was for an applicant who applied for admission in 2019 but was denied due to his history of substance abuse as well as his criminal conduct. He shared that when that happens, the applicant must sit out for two years before he/she can apply again. He shared that unfortunately for this applicant, the staff and the Character and Fitness Committee continue to have concerns. As a result, the Committee has referred the applicant for an independent medical examination (IME) not only for his substance abuse, but also for what seems to be an underlying personality disorder.

### **Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (CLE)**

Executive Director Sharon Wilkinson shared that all active members received their CLE compliance reports on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, in compliance with the CLE Rules. She shared that this prompts many members to request status changes. She reminded the Board that all members must be compliant with their CLE requirements by January 15, 2022.

### **Attorney Discipline**

Mark Gifford reported that his office is extremely busy with attorney discipline and one particular case is also keeping Special Bar Counsel very busy. He shared that his office typically has 3-4 hard cases going that require a great deal of time. He estimates that they will end the year with 120 complaints, which is about average. Mr. Gifford shared that he thinks the use of the Ethics Hotline has an impact on the number of complaints received. He noted that he and Melinda McCorkle, Deputy Bar Counsel, spend a significant amount of time on the phone with lawyers who really want to do the right thing. President Barbe shared that he thinks the Ethics Hotline is such a great service to our members and thanked Mr. Gifford for starting it. Mark Gifford shared that he and Ms. McCorkle receive 25-50 calls per week.

Sadly, Mr. Gifford reported that his office continues to see instances where lawyers are just not functioning, and he thinks Covid is an underlying factor. He provided a few examples.

Commissioner Jennifer Kirk asked Mr. Gifford if he was aware of what was taking the Supreme Court so long to hand down a decision from the disciplinary hearing that took place in May. Mark Gifford shared that he is aware that the Court will be issuing an opinion for that particular case; however, he too is a bit surprised that there still is no decision.

Mark Gifford shared that the Board of Professional Responsibility (BPR) recently sent a recommendation for a stipulated public discipline to the Supreme Court and the Court denied it with a reminder that all disciplinary proceedings are *de novo*, and the Court is not bound by anything to which the parties may stipulate. Mr. Gifford shared that for the case that went to hearing in May, he expects to receive a very detailed opinion scrutinizing the BPR's findings.

### **Fee Arbitration**

Mark Gifford provided an overview of how the Fee Arbitration program runs and shared that two original members of the Fee Arbitration Committee, Tim Woznick and Amanda Esch, will drop off of the Committee at the end of the year after serving for six years. He noted that they were instrumental in revamping the entire system.

### **Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL)**

Mark Gifford shared that things are fortunately fairly quiet on this front, as a cautionary letter from him to UPL offenders typically puts a stop to it. He shared that the last hearing the UPL Committee had was in 2019.

### **Client Protection Fund (CPF)**

Mark Gifford reminded the Board that due to a rule change in 2019, all of the unclaimed money in lawyers' trust accounts now gets paid to the CPF on the rationale that if the clients do come calling, the money will be available. Mr. Gifford that that this rule change has provided a good source of revenue for the fund.

Mr. Gifford reported that he does expect to receive some claims as a result of the death of Casper lawyer Zak Szekely. He reminded the Board that the balance in that fund is almost \$43,000.

### **Wyoming Tribune-Eagle Editorial**

Mark Gifford shared with the Board that there was an editorial published in the *Wyoming Tribune-Eagle* recently regarding the Manlove disciplinary case that was unfortunately full of misinformation. He reported that the Executive Committee met to discuss this, and the Board of Professional Responsibility was also made aware of it. As a result, he and Melinda McCorkle have decided to enhance the information on the website regarding the disciplinary process. He shared that the Bar Counsel column in the December *Wyoming Lawyer* will also focus on this topic. He reminded the Board that the Manlove disciplinary hearing is scheduled for February and that President-Elect Hawks will serve as the Chair of the hearing panel.

Jack Speight commended President-Elect Hawks for the order he recently issued and shared that he too was discouraged to read the misinformation in the editorial.

Commissioner Gee inquired as to what would logistically happen in the event that Ms. Manlove is disbarred or pulled from her position as District Attorney. Mark Gifford shared that the Laramie County Commissioners would be responsible for replacing the position.

### **Revisions to Board Manual**

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she has made some revisions to the Board Manual and is seeking Board approval on those. She walked the Board through the changes, which were 1) adding the mission statement; 2) adding a section about strategic planning; and 3) updating the Keller policy.

Commissioner Whiting made a motion to approve the amendments to the Board Manual. Commissioner Stefanie Boster seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Wyoming Lawyer Assistance Program (WyLAP) Update**

Jack Speight, WyLAP Director, provided an overview of how WyLAP works and shared that he refers approximately 50% of the calls he receives to the Wyoming Professional Assistance Program (WPAP) for initial assessment. He reported that his calls are not only related to addiction issues but also bipolar, depression or anxiety issues; however, he has seen these issues overlap with addiction issues.

Mr. Speight reported that some of the lawyers being monitored by WPAP are compelled to do so by the disciplinary system. He shared that he, Mark Gifford and Melinda McCorkle have an effective system in place to maintain confidentiality in these instances.

Jack Speight provided an overview of the WyLAP Foundation and how he operates that. He shared that the current balance in the Foundation account is over \$91,000. Under the rules, he has the discretion to commit \$1,000 to an attorney who qualifies for the grant; however, anything over that amount must receive the approval of the WyLAP Foundation Board, which is chaired by Rhonda Woodard. Mr. Speight shared that three lawyers have benefited from these funds and provided the dollar amount paid out by the Foundation.

Jack Speight reminded the Board that it approved eHome Counseling Group as a member benefit in 2020. He reported that in the last 90 days, seven members of the Bar have reached out to eHome and one of those is in treatment. He shared that there may be more members of the Bar benefitting from eHome's services; however, not all callers identify themselves.

President Barbe thanked Mr. Speight for volunteering his time to run WyLAP. He shared that even though it is a small number of members taking advantage of the program, it is still so important and he is proud of the work Mr. Speight is doing.

### **Chancery Court Overview**

Ben Burningham joined the meeting to provide an overview of Wyoming's newest court, Chancery Court. He shared that the Chancery Court is a specialized court of limited jurisdiction that will hear business and trust cases. He reported that Wyoming is not necessarily breaking new ground by creating this court, as roughly half the states have specialty courts.

Mr. Burningham shared that he is often asked why Wyoming needs a Chancery Court and what drives this modern business court movement. He shared that proponents would offer a wide range of justifications, but he believes the benefits extend beyond business litigation to the entire judicial system. He shared that the Chancery Court will take complicated, time-intensive cases off of the trial case docket and allow judges to focus on their other cases. He feels that Chancery Court will also complement the Legislature's efforts to attract and retain new businesses in the state.

Ben Burningham shared that Chancery Court will open for business on December 1<sup>st</sup>, and to prepare for this, the Wyoming Supreme Court has adopted a unique set of rules. He shared that a 12-person committee chaired by Chief Justice Kate Fox was mindful of the need to conform the new rules to those rules practitioners are using in District Court. He also discussed the training that is necessary in order to practice in Chancery Court.

Mr. Burningham shared that Judges Fenn, Lavery and Sharpe will accept temporary assignments to handle the cases until a full-time Chancery Court judge is installed. He reported that these judges have been given broad authority to expedite cases. The Chancery

Court Clerk's office will be located in Cheyenne; however, the actual court will be housed in a new state office building in Casper.

President Barbe asked Mr. Burningham if the Chancery Court judges' opinions will be written and published. Mr. Burningham reported that the statute creating the Chancery Court requires its decisions to be published and both WestLaw and Lexis have agreed to publish them. The Chancery Court website will also include opinions.

Jack Speight asked Mr. Burningham about appeals. Mr. Burningham shared that the Supreme Court addresses this by amending the Rules of Appellate Procedure so appeals will be handled the exact same way as the District Court.

Mark Gifford mentioned that there has been some concern and discussion about the constitutionality of these statutes, as the Legislative Branch is essentially dictating how the Judicial Branch should operate. Mr. Burningham indicated he is aware of these concerns; however, only time will tell.

After Mr. Burningham left the meeting, President Barbe asked the Board members if they had any thoughts about Chancery Court and wondered whether they were hearing anything from their constituents. Commissioner Gee mentioned that it will be interesting to see how the new court changes the judiciary by taking the more desirable cases away from District Court. She also wondered if this would impact the number of applicants expressing interest in serving on the District Court.

### **2021 Virtual Annual Meeting Wrap-Up Report**

Executive Director Wilkinson directed the Board's attention to the wrap-up report she provided in the meeting materials. She shared that the staff refers to these reports when it starts planning the next year's Annual Meeting. The Board members commended the staff for its work transitioning to a virtual conference on such short notice.

Commissioner Shawn Wilde asked what the status was with the bill from Little America. Mark Gifford reported that the final bill has been paid, but the charge for room attrition was subtracted, as it is the Bar's position that cancelling the in-person activities was an event of force majeure.

### **Equal Justice Wyoming (EJW)/Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation (EJWF) Update**

Angie Dorsch, Executive Director of EJW and EJWF, joined the meeting. She reminded the Board that Equal Justice Wyoming is an entity of the Judicial Branch, and that funding was created by the Legislature in 2010. EJW is responsible for funding for civil legal services, managing the volunteer lawyer program for the state, managing the self-help resources for the state and helping support the Access to Justice Commission. She clarified that the Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) that took over the Wyoming State Bar Foundation in 2015. The Foundation manages the IOLTA program and engages in private fundraising.

Angie Dorsch shared that she was excited to engage in a joint strategic planning session with both entities back in September and was thrilled to have Justice Boomgaarden, Chair of the Access to Justice Commission, participate.

Ms. Dorsch shared that EJW administers grants in the amount of \$1.3 million annually. She thanked the Board of Officers & Commissioners for the funding provided through a portion of the pro hac vice fees. Cathy Duncil reminded the Board that the application fee for pro hac vice admission is \$500—the Bar maintains \$400 of the fee and contributes \$100 of each fee to EJW. Ms. Dorsch reported that since that was implemented in 2016, EJW has received \$148,000 from this source. She then provided an overview of other sources of funding for EJW.

Angie Dorsch also reported that the Access to Justice Commission is working to promote policies to allow government attorneys throughout the state to engage in pro bono work.

In regard to the Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation (EJWF), Angie Dorsch thanked the Board for its decision to offer a \$25,000 matching grant again this year. She reported that in 2020, EJWF raised \$45,000 in private donations, which doubled what they received the previous year.

Ms. Dorsch reported that as a result of the drop in interest rates in 2020 due to the pandemic, the IOLTA program took a hit. However, she reported that they retained most of their “Prime Partner” banks (banks committed to offering favorable interest rates on IOLTAs in order to support access to justice and civil legal aid to low-income persons in Wyoming). She reported only having one bank withdraw from the Prime Partner program and one bank drop to a lower tier.

Angie Dorsch reported that due to some connections on the judiciary, EJWF was invited by the Hughes Charitable Foundation to apply for a grant. The grants are for targeted projects and she shared that they identified the Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) at Cheyenne Regional Medical Center as a successful pilot project (which is the first MLP in Wyoming). EJWF applied for a grant to expand MLPs in Wyoming. She was pleased to report that they received the grant award of \$200,000 in straight grant money in addition to a \$100,000 matching grant challenge. Ms. Dorsch also reported that they are in the early planning stages but are considering Gillette and Casper as potential areas to launch new MLPs.

### **Website Privacy Policy**

President-Elect Hawks shared that he was consulted by Cathy Duncil about some issues relating to the Bar’s cyber-insurance policy. As a result, he did some research and learned that Wyoming does not have a state law on privacy policies on websites; however, he came to the conclusion that the Bar should have one. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she met with the staff to ensure that the policy works mechanically. President-Elect Hawks reported that he still needs to draft the terms and conditions referenced in the policy.

Commissioner Whiting asked what the downside of not having a policy is. President-Elect Hawks shared that if the Bar does not have a policy in place and there is a data breach, we could be subject to action by the Federal Trade Commission.

Treasurer Neville questioned the clause at the top of page 3 that says, “We do not sell your Personal Information to third parties and have no intention of doing so in the future,” in light of the Bar’s Data Distribution Policy. Executive Director Wilkinson agreed that was a good point and reminded the Board that the policy allows the Bar to sell electronic data for one-time use only to a “mailing house.” She shared that since the Board implemented this policy in 2018, the Bar has only sold data twice.

After much discussion, Commissioner Whiting made a motion to table this issue and bring it back to the January Board meeting. Commissioner Boster seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Inactive License Fee**

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she recently recognized that the Bar’s Inactive license fee of \$237.50 is the second highest in the country—Arizona has the highest. She shared that Inactive members are not authorized to practice law in Wyoming, but they only pay \$5.00 less than New Active members (practicing five years or fewer) who are licensed to practice. She shared that Wyoming’s contiguous states’ Inactive license fees range from \$0-\$150 per year and recommended decreasing Wyoming’s Inactive license fee to either \$100 or \$150. She acknowledged that it would be a hit in revenue and shared that with 368 Inactive members, a \$100 Inactive fee would be a \$50,000 hit, while a \$150 Inactive fee would be a \$32,200 hit.

Commissioner Whiting made a motion to decrease the Inactive license fee to \$150.00 per year. Commissioner Boster seconded the motion.

There was discussion amongst the Board members that \$237.50 was a minimal amount to maintain a Wyoming license in order to prevent them from having to go through the admissions process again in the event that they need to seek an Active license.

The motion failed.

### **Committee Liaisons**

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that most of the Bar’s committees have a liaison from the Board of Officers & Commissioners. She shared that President Barbe was working on his Board/Committee appointments and needed to select liaisons. After discussion, liaisons were chosen for each committee.

### **Visit From the Chief Justice**

Chief Justice Kate Fox joined the meeting and reported that in the four months she has served as Chief Justice, she has been involved in five selections for new judges with the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC). She shared that she and other members of the JNC are quite

concerned about the dwindling number of lawyers applying for judicial vacancies. She shared that they want to continue to be the branch of government that applies the rule of law, so there is a need for good, quality candidates and this is a priority for the Court.

Chief Justice Fox reported that the Joint Judiciary Committee has approved a bill to add three District Court judges—one in the Third Judicial District, one in the Sixth Judicial District and one in the Seventh Judicial District. She feels that these additional judges will result in swifter resolution of disputes and make the existing judges more sustainable. She indicated that anything the Commissioners could do in their respective judicial districts to support this effort would be much appreciated.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared with Chief Justice Fox that following Ben Burningham's discussion of Chancery Court, there was discussion amongst the Board members that there is a concern on the part of some District Court judges about the new Chancery Court taking away the cases that the District Court judges really like to do. Chief Justice Fox shared that not all of the judges feel that way and some judges are pleased to not have to handle those complex civil cases.

Chief Justice Fox also mentioned that the mandatory retirement age for Supreme Court justices and District Court judges is currently 70; however, the Joint Judiciary Committee is sponsoring a bill that would bump that to 75. She mentioned that this would also require a constitutional amendment.

Chief Justice Fox reported that the district courts are in the process of rolling out the case management system in preparation for electronic filing. She shared that Albany County and Laramie County are the first counties to have it in place and she believes Fremont County is next. She reported that it is going to take another 18 months to get all of the district courts on that system. The Chief shared that e-filing will begin next summer in Albany County.

Mark Gifford asked Chief Justice Fox if the case management system will change the way WyUser works. He explained to the Board that WyUser is the public access system used in the district courts now. Chief Justice Fox shared that it will absolutely impact the way WyUser works, as it is an entirely new system.

### **Jackrabbit Bar Conference Report**

Commissioner Craig Silva and Treasurer Neville reported that they attended the Jackrabbit Bar Conference in Idaho in September. Treasurer Neville reported that approximately 30 people were in attendance and the programming was very impressive. She provided an overview of the program topics, which included mandatory bar issues as well as the future of the legal profession.

### **President's Report**

President Barbe shared that he had a meeting with Judge Wilking, District Court Judge in Casper, recently in order to discuss the need for additional District Court judges. In the meeting he learned of some of the struggles judges are experiencing, including working

incredibly long hours, being stacked minute by minute with work and writing opinions late at night or on weekends. He shared that the purpose of her pitch was to make the Bar aware of the dire need for additional judges.

President Barbe also shared that Judge Wilking also shared her concern about the lack of civility she sees in her courtroom. Unfortunately, she shared that what she sees is mainly from out-of-state lawyers and was somewhat critical of the Uniform Bar Exam that she feels allows lawyers to waive in easily.

President Barbe shared that Judge Wilking discussed the family law part of her docket with him and explained that it is very time consuming. He reported that at one time, there was an active group of family law practitioners in Natrona County, but there are so few lawyers doing family law now that Judge Wilking is seeing an increase in pro se litigants.

President Barbe shared that he serves on a committee that is working to completely revamp the Judicial Advisory Poll. He reminded the Board that Past President Billie Addleman was approached by Justice Boomgaarden earlier in the year with hopes that the Bar would improve the poll in order to make it more fair and more effective.

President Barbe reported that he spoke at the new admittee ceremony earlier in the year and he spoke this morning at the virtual robing ceremony for new Fremont County Circuit Court judge Jefferson Coombs.

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

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that the license fee cycle began October 1<sup>st</sup> and fees are due November 30<sup>th</sup>. She reported that of the 3,678 members who pay license fees, 2,145 of them have paid, which leaves 1,533 still to pay. She reminded the Board that after November 30<sup>th</sup>, the \$75.00 late fee will be assessed and shared that the Bar typically generates \$14,000-\$24,000 in late fees.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that since October 1<sup>st</sup>, she has processed 59 status changes and there are 34 more which are pending, as some specify the exact date on which they want the status change to be processed. Of those, she reported that 24 have changed to Active status, 14 have changed to Retired, 13 have changed to Inactive, one has changed to Emeritus and seven have withdrawn their membership altogether. She also reported that she has processed 22 active-duty military waiver requests and reminded the Board that there is a statute that requires licensing agencies to waive license fee and continuing education requirements for those on active duty.

Executive Director Wilkinson reported that the annual financial audit will take place the first week of December. She shared that the auditors will be physically in the office this year after having done the audit completely off-site last year due to the pandemic. She shared that Cathy Duncil, Bookkeeper, has been doing the prep work that the auditors have asked her to do. She shared that Wayne Herr, partner at McGee, Hearne & Paiz, will be in attendance at the January Board meeting in Douglas to present the annual audit report.

## Young Lawyer Section Report

Emily Madden, Chair of the Young Lawyer Section (YLS), shared that the YLS Council has met twice via Zoom since she became the Chair. She reported that the section is offering monthly CLE programs to section members. She also shared that they will continue to work on doing a spotlight piece on a young lawyer in each issue of the *Wyoming Lawyer* as well as a spotlight on one of the leadership council members on social media.

Ms. Madden also reported that they are working with the law school on some suicide prevention initiatives as well as some mentorship initiatives. She shared that there was recent discussion about doing quarterly gatherings with a public service focus (i.e., food banks, toys for Tots, etc.) with young lawyers. They are also considering hosting a judges' reception at the 2022 Annual Meeting & Judicial Conference.

## Commissioners' Reports

- *First Judicial District*—Commissioner Boster shared that the Laramie County Bar Association met earlier this week and got a report on Chancery Court.
- *Second Judicial District*—Commissioner Sarah Chavez Harkins reported that the Carbon County Bar Association is doing a CLE on workers' comp issues for the community.
- *Third Judicial District*—Commissioner Jason Petri shared that the District Court in Sweetwater County is still closed to the public. He shared that there have been no in-person civil hearings in over a year, with the exception of one week.
- *Fourth Judicial District*—Commissioner Kevin Kessner reported that the courts in his district are having in-person hearings. He shared that the Sheridan County Bar Association was fairly active prior to the pandemic, but things have really fallen off.
- *Fifth Judicial District*—Commissioner Kirk reported that the Park County Bar Association will be doing a Toys for Tots event with Burg Simpson.
- *Sixth Judicial District*—Commissioner Gee shared that she is happy for Judge Coombs but sad to lose him as a Public Defender in Gillette, as he has really been carrying the weight there. She reported that the Campbell County Bar Association is having a Christmas party, which they have invited the Crook and Weston County Bar members to attend. She was pleased to share that Chief Justice Fox will be in attendance.
- *Seventh Judicial District*—Commissioner Craig Silva shared that his county bar met on October 8<sup>th</sup> and had close to 100 people in attendance. He reported that they had a CLE speaker from Vital Records in attendance as well as Jill Keister, the District Court Clerk.
- *Eighth Judicial District*—Commissioner Wilde reported that the Converse County Bar Association still does its coffee and donuts get-together every other month. He shared that they plan to participate in a local "giving tree" event for their local kids. The county bar has chosen a few kids off the tree and will provide Christmas presents for them. Commissioner Wilde also shared that he is pleased to hear that members are utilizing the services provided by eHome Counseling Group and would like to see more marketing about those services.
- *Ninth Judicial District*—Commissioner Whiting shared that the Fremont County Bar Association is hosting its Christmas party next month at Svilar's.

## Board/Committee Liaison Reports

- *Civil Pattern Jury Instructions Committee*—Commissioner Kessner reported that this committee will meet in January and shared that it hasn't been too active since issuing new instructions last year.
- *Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee*—Vice President Teresa Thybo reported that the committee continues to meet monthly. The new theft instruction has been submitted to Fastcase and should be available soon. She shared that the bestiality instruction has also been submitted. Vice President Thybo reported that Christyne Martens, the current chair, is going off the committee at the end of the year, and Judge Craig Jones has volunteered to serve as chair.

President J. Kenneth Barbe adjourned the meeting on Friday, November 19, 2021, at 5:26 p.m.

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Minutes Submitted by:

Sharon Wilkinson  
Executive Director