

Wyoming State Bar Board of Officers & Commissioners Meeting

November 4, 2022
Wyoming State Bar
Cheyenne, Wyoming

In Attendance: Christopher H. Hawks, President; Anna M. Reeves Olson, President-Elect; Erin E. Weisman, Vice President; J. Kenneth Barbe, Immediate Past President; Stefanie L. Boster, First Judicial District Commissioner; Dona Playton, Second Judicial District Commissioner; Jason Petri, Third Judicial District Commissioner (via phone); Kevin K. Kessner, Fourth Judicial District Commissioner; Jennifer L. Kirk, Fifth Judicial District Commissioner; P. Craig Silva, Seventh Judicial District Commissioner; Shawn G. Wilde, Eighth Judicial District Commissioner; James T. Whiting, Ninth Judicial District Commissioner; Nicklaus L. Dillinger, Chair, Young Lawyer Section; Sharon Wilkinson, Executive Director; Mark W. Gifford, Bar Counsel; Melinda S. McCorkle, Deputy Bar Counsel; Cathy Duncil, Admissions Director; Marie Ellis, CLE Director; Brandi Robinson, Assistant to Bar Counsel; and Jenelle Olivas, Lawyer Referral Service Coordinator

Absent: Kelly M. Neville, Treasurer, and Alison O. Gee, Sixth Judicial District Commissioner

Guests: The Honorable Kate Fox, Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court, and Jack Speight, Wyoming Lawyer Assistance Program (WyLAP) Director

President Christopher Hawks called the meeting to order at 12:31 p.m. on Friday, November 4, 2022.

Approval of Agenda

Executive Director Sharon Wilkinson shared that while Chief Justice Kate Fox was originally scheduled to be on the agenda for 2:00 p.m., she has requested that she be bumped to 2:30 p.m. to accommodate another meeting.

Commissioner James Whiting made a motion to approve the agenda with Executive Director Wilkinson's amendment. Commissioner Craig Silva seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jennifer Kirk made a motion to approve both the August 19th and the September 16th meeting minutes. Commissioner Kevin Kessner 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

In Treasurer Neville's absence, Cathy Duncil shared that we wrapped up the 2021/2022 fiscal year on September 30, 2022. She reminded the Board that when it approved last year's budget, we planned to lose about \$16,000; however, according to the financial statements, it looks like the Bar lost over \$250,000 at the end of this last fiscal year. Ms. Duncil clarified that it is a bit misleading, as the bulk of that loss was due to a decline in the market value of the Bar's investments. She shared that these are only losses on paper, but our auditors do require the loss to be shown as an expense on our financial statements.

Cathy Duncil shared that the auditors will make necessary adjustments to the financial statements during next month's audit, and the Board will see the audited financial statement at its January meeting. Overall, Ms. Duncil shared that it was a very strong fiscal year, as we did much better than we expected with the Annual Meeting revenues and expenses and we were able to contribute \$50,000 for the law school endowment, which was not budgeted for. She also mentioned that it was a very unusual year for the Office of Bar Counsel due to an eight-day disciplinary hearing.

Commissioner Shawn Wilde asked if the Bar makes regular contributions to the investment portfolio. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that while the Bar has contributed additional funds to the portfolio, it is not on a regular basis. She shared that funds were deposited in the account on a few instances—when the Bar is over its FDIC limit on some accounts, when the Bar is flush with cash during the license fee cycle and when a CD matured. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she has tracked the history of the investment accounts since she opened those in 2018 and will share that history with the Board.

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

Admissions

Cathy Duncil shared that the pass rate on the July Bar exam was the lowest she has ever seen with a 55% pass rate. She shared that she suspects that the Covid pandemic was a significant factor—some applicants learning in person and some learning virtually. She shared that many states experienced a lower pass rate.

Ms. Duncil shared that there are two July exam applicants whose results have not yet been released—one has been referred for a hearing before the Character and Fitness Committee in January and Melinda McCorkle, Deputy Bar Counsel, is investigating the other.

Cathy Duncil reported that the Bar hosted a very nice reception for those who passed the July exam. She shared that for the first time, the Supreme Court decided not to let any of the applicants be sworn in early. As a result, they all had to wait for the October swearing-in

ceremony, and that boosted attendance at the reception. Ms. Duncil also reported another first for the Court, and that was the fact that the Supreme Court clerks called each applicant to let them know the results of the exam as opposed to only calling those who had passed the exam and sending a letter to those who did not.

Cathy Duncil shared that we have an attorney who is being conditionally admitted to the Bar. She shared that Melinda McCorkle has put in a significant amount of work on this applicant. Mark Gifford shared that the conditional admission rule is one the Court adopted several years ago and it is aimed at providing a path to admission for lawyers who either have financial issues they are working through mental health/substance abuse issues. He shared that this particular lawyer was a member of the Bar several years ago but unfortunately got into drugs. This lawyer is now clean and sober and passed the Bar exam. Mr. Gifford shared that a conditional admittee looks like a full-fledged lawyer to the public but is under a monitoring agreement with the Bar. He shared that since the conditional admissions rule was adopted several years ago, only one conditional admittee did not comply with his agreement and the Court terminated his membership.

Cathy Duncil reported that there are 20 applicants that have applied to sit for the February exam. She also shared that she learned this morning that Colorado, which is also a Uniform Bar Exam (UBE) state, lowered its cut score (passing score) from 276 to 270, so its score now matches Wyoming. She shared that five states have lowered their cut scores after initial adoption of the UBE.

President Hawks shared that Marilyn Kite, former Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court, stopped him this morning at the Supreme Court and shared that Klint Alexander, Dean of the University of Wyoming College of Law, is asking her about Wyoming's passing score. Executive Director Wilkinson recalled back in 2012 when Wyoming adopted the UBE, determination of the cut score was based on what the MBE score used to be along with other factors. President Hawks reported that he learned from the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) that Wyoming's MBE scores have dropped six points in the last three years, which is troubling.

Cathy Duncil reported that the Conference of Bar Administrators is meeting today and one of the topics they are discussing is how to come up with a passing score on NextGen, the next generation of the Bar exam, which will first be administered in 2026. President Hawks, who also serves on the Board of Law Examiners as well as the NCBE's Multi-State Essay Examination (MEE)/Multi-State Performance Test (MPT) Committee, shared that the scoring process and the scaling of the scores will be totally different with NextGen.

Commissioner Dona Playton, who is a faculty member at the law school, shared that she read something on NextGen that indicated it would be better for students who have had experiential training, so she thinks that bodes well for University of Wyoming students. She shared that she also learned there would be an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) component to NextGen.

Cathy Duncil shared that law professors and law school deans from all over the country were involved in the implementation of NextGen.

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (CLE)

Marie Ellis, CLE Director, shared that she is required by the CLE Rules to send all Active, New Active and Emeritus members their personalized status reports on November 15th. She shared that while CLE credits do not have to be submitted until January 15, 2023, she still has approximately 1,300 members who still need to earn CLE in order to be compliant for 2022.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that those who are not compliant with their CLE requirements by January 15th will be assessed a \$300 delinquency fee, and those who are still not compliant by March 1st will be assessed an additional \$300 noncompliance fee and be recommended for suspension to the Supreme Court.

Office of Bar Counsel

Mark Gifford, Bar Counsel, shared that there have been some new developments since he submitted the memo for the Board meeting materials. Since he wrote the memo, the Supreme Court suspended two lawyers—one in Cheyenne and one in Laramie. He also shared that a lawyer in Buffalo has fallen off the grid and not cooperating with Melinda McCorkle's investigation, so the Court ordered his immediate suspension.

Mark Gifford reported that the Office of Bar Counsel has four matters in formal charge. He shared that his office is seeing more serious misconduct by lawyers. He shared that he and Ms. McCorkle continue to see more attorneys that are not functioning well. He is not sure what the root of this problem is, but it continues to keep his office very busy.

Mr. Gifford shared that the Manlove case is still pending at the Supreme Court. He shared that the oral argument took place in August and he reported that Manlove was not seeking reelection as the Laramie County District Attorney.

Vice President Erin Weisman asked Mr. Gifford if this was the first time the Court held oral argument in a disciplinary case. Mr. Gifford shared that he could recall a few instances where they did. He shared that it is his understanding that if one justice wants to hear oral argument, that is all it takes.

Mark Gifford reported that Becket Hinckley was ordered to pay his costs by June 1st, but he did not. As a result, the Bar negotiated a promissory note which requires monthly payment and is sending monthly invoices.

Fee Arbitration

Mark Gifford reported that the Fee Arbitration program continues to be steady. He shared that either the lawyer or the client can petition for arbitration. This program is essentially run by Brandi Robinson, Assistant to Bar Counsel, in conjunction with the Fee Arbitration Committee, which is chaired by Rex Arney.

Wyoming Lawyer Assistance Program (WyLAP) Update

Jack Speight joined the meeting and reported that he is currently working with five people—one of which happens to be a law student. He also shared that he is dealing with a lawyer who has a severe drinking problem accompanied by a severe anxiety problem. For the first time, Mr. Speight has contacted a professional interventionist and they have been dealing with this attorney for five weeks now. Mr. Speight described the dilapidated conditions in which this attorney lives. He shared that next week he will participate in an intervention with this lawyer's family.

Commissioner Jennifer Kirk thanked Mr. Speight for the service he is providing for the Bar. She asked if these attorneys are self-reporting to WyLAP. Jack Speight shared that the majority of them are self-reporting.

Mark Gifford shared that he, Jack Speight and Executive Director Wilkinson had an emergency meeting with the WyLAP Foundation Board regarding a lawyer in need of residential treatment. He reminded the Board that donations from our members have put the balance in the WyLAP Foundation bank account at almost \$100,000. Mr. Gifford shared that the WyLAP Foundation Board approved an expenditure of \$20,000 for this lawyer's recovery if Mr. Speight can get him to the treatment facility.

Jack Speight shared that the cost for one day of detox at the facility is \$1,400. That same day of detox is also accompanied by a room and board charge of \$1,100 per day. He also shared that he recently learned of a detox program at Ivins Memorial in Laramie that has a five-day program. He intends to learn more about that.

President Hawks asked if law students were made aware of the availability of WyLAP. Mark Gifford shared that he and Cathy Duncil have asked the law school to make room for them on the agenda for first-year orientation each year so they can discuss WyLAP, what it can do for them and the importance of addressing problems sooner versus later. He shared that they also travel over to Laramie to meet with third-year law students to discuss WyLAP, as these students are preparing to apply for admission to the Bar. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that while the requests are made every year, they are not always accommodated by the law school.

Commissioner Playton shared that she brought in a professor from the University of Utah to do a training on wellness with her clinic students at the law school and the students were so appreciative of it. She thinks that informing the students of WyLAP's services is critically important.

Vice President Weisman asked Mr. Speight if attorneys will not go willingly into treatment, has he involved doctors and/or law enforcement to be involved in involuntary treatment. Jack Speight reported that he has not yet experienced such a situation.

2022 Annual Meeting Wrap-Up Report

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she provides the Board with a wrap-up report each year following the Annual Meeting & Judicial Conference; however, it is also very helpful for the staff as they begin planning next year's event. She shared that she and the staff were so pleased to be able to host an in-person conference this year after having gone all virtual for the last two years. Executive Director Wilkinson reported that she was very pleased that over 700 members participated in one way or another. She shared that when she was budgeting for this year's Annual Meeting, she had no way of knowing we would be offering both in-person and virtual registrations, so the added revenue from the virtual registrants was unanticipated but nice.

In regard to the financial outcome and the history of that from past annual meetings, Executive Director Wilkinson was asked why that varies so much from year to year. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that one factor is that the Bar most often loses money when the conference is hosted in Jackson. She shared that another factor is where the conference is hosted—Cheyenne always has a large attendance. Also, the keynote speaker factors into the attendance and the net profit.

Seventh Judicial District Commissioner's Term Expiration

Executive Director Wilkinson explained that she made a data entry error in the "committees" section of the membership database and entered Commissioner Silva's term expiration as 2022 when it should be 2023. Correcting this would mean Commissioner Silva would actually serve an additional year as Commissioner.

After discussion, Vice President Weisman made a motion to extend Commissioner Silva's term for one year and correct it in the database. Commissioner Kirk seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Liaisons

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that most of the Bar's committees have a liaison from the Board of Officers & Commissioners. She walked the Board through the current liaisons and decisions were made about who would serve this fiscal year.

There was a lengthy discussion about the Law School Liaison Committee, as year after year, the Bar Presidents appoint people to serve on this committee, but it has not been very active. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she thinks considering that Wyoming is one of few states that only has one law school, we should have an active committee and better relations with the law school.

Commissioner Playton agreed that there should definitely be an active committee. She wondered if this committee could address some of the issues surrounding the Bar exam, character and fitness hearings and other admissions issues.

Commissioner Kirk shared that she serves on the committee and recalls that it was meeting regularly in anticipation of Justice Gorsuch's visit in 2020, but the committee's activity has now fallen off.

Commissioner Playton shared that if we have a group of lawyers who are willing to volunteer their time, we want to take advantage of that. She also shared that she anticipates some recommended changes that will come as a result of the recent ABA accreditation visit.

Judicial Branch Update

Chief Justice Kate Fox joined the meeting and reported that the Judicial Nominating Commission, which she chairs, will be on its 17th new judge since she became Chief Justice in 2021. She shared that there is great energy with the new judges and she sees this as a turning point in the judiciary. She reported that things have changed in the judiciary—not only do judges need to be learned in the law, but they also need to deal with the mentally ill and the numerous family law cases. Chief Justice Fox feels that courts are now the emergency rooms for all of society's ills. As a consequence, she explained that their roles as judges are different than in years past and these new judges are ready to adopt a new outlook.

Chief Justice Fox said that one of her initiatives has been to reorganize the structure of the judicial branch. She shared that this is critical, especially if the judiciary is going to get the funding and support that this branch of government needs. She feels that having new, young judges on board is helpful.

Chief Justice Fox shared that, historically, there has been tension between the District Court judges and the Circuit Court judges and they are moving away from that. She shared that lawyers play a part in this too—lawyers and judges need to work towards the same thing, which is to bring fairness to our society through the Rule of Law.

Chief Justice Fox discussed what the Judicial Branch Innovation Taskforce has accomplished in Phase 1 and shared that Phase 2 will involve bringing in more of the stakeholders, which will include Bar members.

Chief Justice Fox shared that part of the need for the Judicial Branch Innovation Taskforce was a clean start or a refresh. The taskforce is finalizing the strategic plan for the judicial branch and its first priority is access to justice and finding new and better approaches to access to justice. The second priority is the effective operation of the judicial branch.

Chief Justice Fox reported that eFiling is up and going in a few counties. They will soon launch it in Laramie County and that is going to be a major accomplishment that will impact a large number of lawyers.

The Chief also reported that the judicial branch is working to improve public trust and confidence in the justice system. They are considering starting the "You Be the Judge" programs again at various locations around the state. She shared that they would like to work

with the Bar on this, as lawyers are a critical piece to getting out and explaining the law to the public.

She reported that another priority for the judicial branch is adequate, stable and predictable funding, as the judiciary has short-changed itself for decades. She explained how the judicial branch has prided itself on the fact that it “didn’t need anything,” when in fact it did. Now all these years later, the judicial branch does not pay its people enough. Chief Justice Fox reported that there are 270 non-judge employees in the judicial branch and they continue to ask these people to do more with less. She shared that in the upcoming legislative session, the judiciary will be asking ARPA funding for treatment courts as well as three more administrative positions to provide branch-wide support for data, technology and legal issues.

Chief Justice Fox reported that Chancery Court has been operational for almost a year now and there have been 13 cases filed. She shared that when the court originally launched, she expected the number of cases to be low simply because the rules allow an opt-out; however, of the 13 cases, she reported that nine of those are ongoing. She reported that of those, five are breach of contract cases, four are uniform trust code cases and the others vary.

The Chief Justice shared that the Court has distributed fact sheets on Constitutional Amendment B, which would increase the mandatory retirement age of Supreme Court justices and District Court judges from 70 to 75. She shared that the Court is not actively lobbying for or against it. She personally does not have much hope for it passing.

Chief Justice Fox shared that Judge Hibben asked her to discuss the lack of attorneys in rural areas with the Board today. She shared that the judiciary really appreciates that the Bar is also committed to getting more lawyers in rural areas. She discussed the success of the program in South Dakota. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that the program is called Project Rural Practice and there was a program at this year’s Jackrabbit Bar Conference in Deadwood, South Dakota, that featured the success of the program. She shared that it is jointly funded by the South Dakota Legislature, the State Bar of South Dakota and the state’s law school. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that they had considered something similar in Wyoming but felt it would be a longshot to get legislative funding. Chief Justice Fox shared that she thinks it is worth further discussion.

Mark Gifford commended Chief Justice Fox for her efforts at outreach, including traveling around the state to meet with lawyers and Wyoming citizens. He shared that he thinks she is doing a great job of building relationships with the other branches of government. Chief Justice Fox shared that she thinks these efforts are critical in her position.

Commissioner Silva asked Chief Justice Fox if the Court is aware of the issue pertaining to competency evaluations in the state hospital. The Chief acknowledged that the Court is indeed aware. She explained that in criminal cases, defendants get referred for a competency evaluation, which are typically done by the state hospital. She shared that there is such a backlog, that people are in jail for six to nine month awaiting the evaluation. She shared her concern that oftentimes that is more time served than is warranted. Chief Justice Fox shared

that she has had discussions with county officials, sheriff's deputies and others about this issue.

Commissioner Wilde asked Chief Justice Fox to shed some light on the recent Circuit Court vacancy in Jackson that was immediately filled by Judge Haws which moved the vacancy to Pinedale. He shared that he was confused because the position got filled without it going through the typical judicial selection process. Chief Justice Fox explained the constitutional process. When there is an opening, the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) announces the vacancy and it accepts expressions of interest. She shared that the JNC then has 60 days to interview candidates and send three names to the Governor, who then has 30 days to make a decision. The Chief explained that Circuit Court judges are assigned to a district, which in this case is the Ninth Judicial District. She explained that when the vacancy was announced, Judge Haws expressed interest, and the Court has the statutory authority to transfer Circuit Court judges within the district. Chief Justice Fox explained that District Courts are constitutional courts, whereas Circuit Courts are statutory courts. She also shared that there is a precedent in District Court, as Judge Nancy Guthrie transitioned from Lander to Jackson when Judge Terry Rogers came off the bench.

Commissioner Wilde shared that it was his understanding that the statute described the Circuit Court as being in a certain county. Chief Justice Fox clarified that they do announce the vacancies by location because it obviously matters to the applicants; however, the actual position is a Circuit Court position within the district. She further explained that in judicial retention elections, all members in that county vote on the retention of the judges there. The Chief noted that the Supreme Court is the body that authorizes the moves between counties and shared that judges do not simply have the ability to get up and change locations. The Court makes those decisions based on case loads and other factors.

Commissioner Kirk asked the Chief Justice if, given that the District Court clerks are elected officials, has there ever been discussion about moving them under the judicial branch so they would be judicial branch employees instead of elected officials. Chief Justice Fox acknowledged that there has been discussion about the logical place for District Court clerks in the judiciary. She shared that if the Court was designing the judiciary from start, they would absolutely make those clerks judicial branch employees. She explained that the stumbling block is that if they became judicial branch employees, their salaries would be general fund salaries as opposed to county funded. She shared that the clerks are not in favor of this. The Chief mentioned that the Court has really improved relations with the clerks over the past few years, as they had to work very closely with them on efilng.

President Hawks asked the Chief Justice if any of the matters in Chancery Court have been fully adjudicated yet. The Chief reported that she stays out of those matters, as they could be appealed. With there being no further questions, President Hawks thanked the Chief Justice for coming.

President's Report

President Hawks shared that he attended and emceed the Annual Business Meeting during the Annual Meeting & Judicial Conference in Casper. He also attended the New Admittee Ceremony in Cheyenne and spoke on behalf of the Bar and the Board of Law Examiners. President Hawks shared that he spoke at Judge Westby's robing ceremony this morning and really enjoyed that.

President Hawks shared that the Executive Committee would continue to meet each Wednesday morning as needed. He reported that there have been three calls in the past six weeks. He reported that he is also working with Executive Director Wilkinson on his numerous board/committee appointments.

Vice President

Vice President Weisman shared that she is excited to be a part of this group and serve the Bar. She thanked Executive Director Wilkinson and the staff for their hard work. She also shared that she really appreciated Chief Justice Fox attending today's meeting to answer some questions and give an update on the judiciary.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that the Bar will be hosting the Jackrabbit Bar Conference next June and announced June 1-3, 2023, as the dates. She also reported that the conference will take place in Laramie.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that the Bar is over halfway through the license fee cycle and has collected over \$500,000 dollars so far. She shared that there are still almost 2,000 members who have yet to pay, but fees are not due until November 30th. She shared that those members who are delinquent on December 1st will be assessed the \$75 late fee and those who are still delinquent on December 16th will be recommended for suspension to the Wyoming Supreme Court.

Young Lawyer Section Report

Nick Dillinger shared that the section hosted a very successful cocktail reception the Tuesday evening of the Annual Meeting & Judicial Conference. He remarked about the large number of judges that were in attendance and shared that he thinks it is so important to gather with this new wave of the judiciary. He was pleased to see some law students in attendance and hopes those folks as well as young lawyers realize the importance of building rapport with the judges.

Nick Dillinger shared that he and John Fritz, the Chair-Elect of the Young Lawyer Section, attended the New Admittee Reception following the ceremony and really promoted membership in the section and encouraged the new admittees to become active in the Bar as well as their communities.

Mr. Dillinger reported that he has started some discussions with Commissioner Alison Gee and Ashli Tomisich at the UW College of Law about possibly setting up a scholarship for law

students to attend the first day of Annual Meeting. He understands that the biggest obstacle for law students to attend the Annual Meeting is lodging and travel expenses. He shared that there is no real framework yet. Executive Director Wilkinson recalled that the Bar used to put word out to members with an opportunity to sponsor a law student for attendance at various conferences. She recalls that there were far more sponsors and very few law students who were interested. She encouraged Mr. Dillinger to perhaps consider something similar again.

Commissioners' Reports

- *First Judicial District*—Commissioner Boster reported that Cheyenne lawyers are watching the election on Tuesday, as Laramie County will have a new District Attorney. She also shared that they are watching the Sheriff's race closely. She shared that the Laramie County Bar Association and Inns of Court are active and having regular meetings. Commissioner Boster shared that she also attended the New Admittee Ceremony and reception, as one of her employees was just admitted. She complimented the staff on such a successful event.
- *Second Judicial District*—Commissioner Playton shared that they have a new police chief in Laramie, so she made an appointment with him next week to learn what his priorities are, as she is the sitting municipal judge in Laramie. She shared that they also have a sheriff's race they are watching. She shared that the Albany County Bar Association does not meet often. She reported that the Albany County Attorney is running unopposed. She also shared that she attended Judge Westby's robing ceremony this morning.
- *Third Judicial District*—Commissioner Jason Petri asked to be invited to his local Bar meetings, but there have not been any. He reported that, overall, lawyers seem generally dissatisfied with the Judicial Performance Assessment, as they did not like the new rating scale. He shared that some feel like the scale was changed so that the judges could not be rated poorly. Commissioner Petri shared that he also heard comments from some lawyers about the letter many lawyers sent to congressional candidate Harriet Hageman. Their perception was that the letter came from the Wyoming State Bar, as signers were identifying their affiliation with the Bar. He also shared that he heard many compliments about the October *Wyoming Lawyer*.
- *Fourth Judicial District*—Commissioner Kessner shared that they have a new District Court judge in Johnson County, and he filled in for President Hawks and spoke at the robing ceremony. He shared that his district had a nice social gathering to welcome the two new judges, The Honorable Darci Phillips and The Honorable Ben Kirven.
- *Fifth Judicial District*—Commissioner Kirk shared that there are no contested races in her county. She shared that she too heard complaints about the Judicial Performance Assessment, as lawyers felt that they could not be honest with their responses without revealing who they were.
- *Sixth Judicial District*—In Commissioner Gee's absence, Nick Dillinger reported that the local bar had its first post-Covid meeting in Campbell County. He shared that their sheriff's race is uncontested; however, the County Attorney's race is contested.
- *Seventh Judicial District*—Commissioner Silva shared that they have two new judges—Circuit Court Judge Nichole Collier and District Court Judge Josh Eames. He shared that he had a trial with Judge Eames and it went very well. He reported that Judge Collier is

running “kid court” and his office is defense counsel. The Supreme Court is coming to Casper in April for oral arguments at Casper College. He shared that they are also going to do a “You Be the Judge” program. Commissioner Silva shared that he is wrapping up the last of deceased lawyer Zak Szekely’s cases. He also discussed some of suspended lawyer Hampton Young’s cases that he is dealing with.

- *Eighth Judicial District*—Commissioner Wilde reported that his district got together right around the state bar convention, and they had a smaller showing than usual. He shared that the Converse County Bar meets regularly for coffee and donuts with the judge.
- *Ninth Judicial District*—Commissioner Whiting shared that they have had quite a turnover in judges in his district. He also reported that the Teton County Bar recently had a get-together.

Board/Committee Liaison Reports

- *Civil Pattern Jury Instructions Committee*—Commissioner Kessner reported that Judge Kricken stepped down as the chair of the committee and Judge Hibben is the new chair. He shared that some updated instructions have been shared with Fastcase.
- *CLE Committee*—Commissioner Silva reported that he is hoping to get some great speakers for next year.

President Christopher Hawks adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m. on Friday, November 4, 2022.

Minutes Submitted by:

Sharon Wilkinson
Executive Director