

Wyoming State Bar Board of Officers & Commissioners Meeting

November 7, 2025
Wyoming State Bar
Cheyenne, Wyoming

- In Attendance:** P. Craig Silva, President; Alison O. Gee, President-Elect; Jennifer L. Kirk, Vice President; Kelly M. Neville, Treasurer; James T. Whiting, Past President; Christopher G. Humphrey, First Judicial District Commissioner; Kylie M. Waldrip, Second Judicial District Commissioner; Jason Petri, Third Judicial District Commissioner; Kevin K. Kessner, Fourth Judicial District Commissioner; Scott E. Kolpitcke, Fifth Judicial District Commissioner; Kyle A. Ferris, Sixth Judicial District Commissioner; Emily S. Madden, Seventh Judicial District Commissioner (via Zoom); Anne K. Wasserburger, Eighth Judicial District Commissioner; Clayton M. Melinkovich, Ninth Judicial District Commissioner; Sharon Wilkinson, Executive Director; and Mark W. Gifford, Bar Counsel
- Absent:** Kayla A. Albertson, Chair, Young Lawyer Section
- Guests:** Hon. Lynne J. Boomgaarden & Elisa M. Butler – Wyoming Supreme Court
Angie M. Dorsch – Equal Justice Wyoming/Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation
-

President P. Craig Silva called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m. on Friday, November 7, 2025.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Executive Director Sharon Wilkinson shared that she heard from two members who are requesting a possible deferral of the annual license fee due to the government shutdown. She asked to include this as an additional item on the meeting agenda.

Vice President Jennifer Kirk made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with Executive Director Wilkinson's addition. Treasurer Kelly Neville seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Neville reported that the Bar ended its last fiscal year with a net income of approximately \$171,000, but she reminded the board that it will be adjusted during the audit. She also reported that we are in the middle of the license fee cycle and as a result of the revenue coming in, we have had to move money around in order to stay under our FDIC limits in all bank accounts.

President-Elect Alison Gee made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Vice President Kirk seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Admissions

Mark Gifford shared that Cathy Duncil, Admissions Director, is attending in conference in San Antonio. He shared that President Silva spoke at the new admittee ceremony last month at the Supreme Court and did a really nice job. He shared that the Bar hosted a reception for the new admittees and their families afterwards.

Mr. Gifford shared that there was a better pass rate on the July exam. He also shared that Darin Scheer, a member from Farson, is currently serving his second year as Chair of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) Board of Trustees. He reported that, unfortunately, Mr. Scheer will be moving to Colorado next year, which makes him ineligible to serve on the Board of Law Examiners. As a result, President Silva has recommended that the Supreme Court appoint Amanda Hunkins Newton to fill the vacancy, and the Court has issued that order.

President Silva shared that the law school is now requiring students to take a bar prep course before the exam, so hopefully, they will continue to see favorable pass rates.

Office of Bar Counsel Report

Mark Gifford directed the Board's attention to his written memo in the materials but reported that one thing he neglected to include was mention of the work his office does to maintain confidentiality. He discussed the process briefly.

Mr. Gifford reported that when his memo was submitted, his office had received 100 complaints; however, to date, they have received 121. With the Deputy Bar Counsel position still being vacant, the Office of Bar Counsel is understaffed. He shared that, fortunately, most complaints do not merit an investigation.

President Silva asked if the new complaints come from lawyers. Mr. Gifford clarified that very few complaints come from lawyers.

Mark Gifford shared that the search for Deputy Bar Counsel is continuing. The Review and Oversight Committee has extended two job offers but both offers were turned down. He reported that the hiring committee will reconvene Monday afternoon to determine next steps.

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board of previous discussion about separating the Office of Bar Counsel website from the Bar's website. The original cost estimate for the project was \$16,400. She reminded the Board that following the August meeting, she was directed to see if Gannett Peak, the company that hosts the Bar's website and membership database, could simply change the look of the disciplinary webpages. She reported that she learned that the cost would drop to \$14,000 and was back before the Board for more direction.

Commissioner Clayton Melinkovich reminded the group how long this discussion had been going on and wondered if it was as big of a concern as it once seemed. President-Elect Gee reminded the group that the original concern was the optics of not having a separate website.

President Silva reminded the group that this concern came from one constituent and felt that the full membership did not share the concern.

After discussion, Treasurer Neville recommended changing the language on the webpages to remove mention of the Wyoming State Bar and accurately reflect that the Office of Bar Counsel handles disciplinary matters. All agreed that would be sufficient.

Proposed Amendments to Rule 10 of the Rules Governing the Wyoming State Bar and the Authorized Practice of Law

Mark Gifford directed the Board's attention to the proposed amendments to Rule 10 of the Rules Governing the Wyoming State Bar and the Authorized Practice of Law. He shared that he received one comment that is summarized in his memo. He requested approval to send the proposed amendments to the Wyoming Supreme Court for adoption.

President-Elect Gee made a motion to authorize Mark Gifford to send the proposed amendments to Rule 10 of the Rules Governing the Wyoming State Bar and the Authorized Practice of Law to the Wyoming Supreme Court for adoption. Commissioner Melinkovich seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Judicial Performance Evaluation Follow-Up

President Silva shared that following the August Board meeting, he, President-Elect Gee, Executive Director Wilkinson and Mark Gifford met with Chief Justice Boomgaarden to let her know of the Board's decision to conduct the Judicial Performance Assessment in 2026 for the last time. They also shared that the Board voted unanimously to revert back to the poll that was conducted in 2020 and not the revamped assessment that was utilized in 2022 and 2024. During the meeting, Chief Justice Boomgaarden asked the Bar to assign three members of the Bar to assist the Court in developing a plan moving forward. President Silva shared that President-Elect Gee had expressed interest in being one of the three members and he also shared that he thought Devon O'Connell would be effective in this role. Vice President Kirk emphasized that one of the members should be one from a rural area.

After discussion, President Silva directed Executive Director Wilkinson to share the three names with the Court: 1. Alison Gee, 2. Jennifer Kirk and 3. Devon O'Connell.

2025-2027 Strategic Plan Progress Report

Executive Director Wilkinson walked the Board through the progress report. President-Elect Gee shared that she thought it was important to also be tracking all of the events with the judiciary that are taking place in various counties. She feels that this outreach is important. Executive Director Wilkinson asked the Board members to please email her with the information about these events, and she will get them included in the progress report.

President Silva recommended that he and the commissioners start thinking about some sort of a "road show." He shared that he would coordinate this with Executive Director Wilkinson and the commissioners. He also recommended coordinating with the judges so that more people would show up.

President-Elect Gee recalled the Bar doing a road show in the past. She thinks it is helpful for the Bar to show up in communities; otherwise, members do not see themselves as part of the Bar.

Officers & Commissioners Expense Reimbursement Policy

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that it put a policy in place years ago that limits the number of Board members attending out-of-state conferences. Mark Gifford reminded the Board that he became increasingly concerned years ago when 13 Board members attended the Western States Bar Conference in Hawaii. He reminded the Board that this was a topic of discussion with Chris Newbold, Strategic Planning Facilitator, at a retreat and Mr. Newbold echoed Mr. Gifford's concerns and recommended implementing a policy that limits this.

President-Elect Gee shared that one of the first things she did as a commissioner was to vote against reimbursement for the Western States Bar Conference in years when the conference took place in Hawaii. She reminded the Board that the current policy only allows the Bar to pay for the Board members' conference registration fees when the Western States Bar Conference is hosted in Hawaii. She shared that this policy has resulted in nobody attending the conference, with the exception of the 2022 conference. She shared that she personally thinks it is a valuable event for the Bar to have representation and wondered if the policy could be changed to reimburse what was spent stateside the previous year.

Vice President Kirk wondered if it would be problematic to base it on the average of what it was the previous year, perhaps we cap the amount, which would make it a flat, even amount.

Mark Gifford thought it made sense to update the policy to reflect reimbursement for lodging and air travel based on what was spent the previous year.

After discussion, President-Elect Gee made a motion to update the policy to offer reimbursement for attendance at the Western States Bar Conference (Hawaii years only) to six Board members with preference given to members of the Executive Committee. The reimbursement would include airfare, meals, lodging and conference registration. If members of the Executive Committee do not wish to go, reimbursement will be offered to more Commissioners followed by the Immediate Past President and the Chair of the Young Lawyer Section. Vice President Kirk seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Executive Director Wilkinson was directed to update the policy and run it by the Executive Committee for approval.

Increase in 2025/2026 License Fees

Executive Director Wilkinson distributed a memo she prepared showing not only what Wyoming's neighboring states' license fees are but also the revenue that could be generated based on license fee increases in different amounts.

President-Elect Gee shared that even though the Bar has reserves, its operating expenses are more than what the revenue is covering. She shared her concern that by continuing on this

path, we are not keeping the cost to our members realistic to what it actually costs to run the Bar. She felt that it comes down to a philosophical question of whether it is healthy to keep going in this direction even though we are budgeting in the red and spending past members' money, which we may need some day.

Mark Gifford shared that the Bar has been so well managed and it has built up such a reserve that we are in a good position. He feels like the best argument to consider increasing license fees is the fact that fees have not been increased in 12 years. He shared that if we factored in a cost-of-living adjustment, the license fee would be nearly \$500 annually.

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that there are three license fees to be considered—1. Active license fee (currently \$350), 2. New Active license fee (currently \$237.50), and 3. Inactive license fee (currently \$237.50). She reminded the Board that on top of the license fee, Active and New Active members also paid the \$5.00 mandatory continuing legal education fee.

There was some discussion about not making the decision today and allowing the commissioners to get feedback from their constituents first. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that this decision would need to be made by the April meeting at the latest, as the Bylaws require the decision to be made and approved by the Wyoming Supreme Court by no later than August 15th. She also shared that she was unaware whether this decision would have to go before the Wyoming Judicial Council, which only meets quarterly.

Commissioner Melinkovich made a motion to increase the license fee for only active members by \$50. Past President James Whiting seconded the motion.

Commissioner Chris Humphrey asked what the rationale was for excluding New Active members. Commissioner Melinkovich shared that he excluded them from his motion simply because they are new to the Bar and he thinks that could be an incentive for them to remain in Wyoming.

President-Elect Gee made a friendly amendment to increase Inactive license fee to \$250 and Active to \$400 but leave the New Active license fee at \$237.50.

Treasurer Neville recommended including the potential for a license fee increase in next week's talking points so members could provide feedback if they wished. Mark Gifford cautioned against that, as there is a difference between giving the members notice about an increase and asking for their feedback.

Commissioner Humphrey made a motion to table this decision until the January meeting. Commissioner Jason Petri seconded the motion. Commissioner Humphrey shared that he has a large constituency and he would like to be able to put all the facts before them. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Wilkinson offered to put some talking points together to share with the Board.

Commissioner Kylie Waldrip wondered what feedback we are hoping to receive from members. Commissioner Humphrey just wanted to avoid being ambushed by his constituents.

There was discussion about what sense it made to collect feedback from the members when the decision seems to have already been made. All agreed that overall, the members would most likely speak in opposition of a license fee increase.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she does not see this decision as any different from discontinuing the printed directory. She presented a good argument with the facts about cost and low demand, and the Board made a good decision. This is no different and is absolutely the Board's decision.

Commissioner Humphrey indicated that he would be much more comfortable increasing Active license fees by \$25 next year and another \$25 the following year.

After discussion, the motion to table failed. The motion to increase Active license fees to \$400 and Inactive license fees to \$250 carried unanimously.

Request to Defer Payment of Annual License Fee

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she has been approached by two members of the Bar who work for the federal government with requests to defer their license fee payments due to the government shutdown. She shared that in preparation for this discussion, she pulled some data, and her rough estimate is that approximately 65 Active, New Active or Inactive members work for the federal government. She is unaware how many of those have been furloughed, but she also noticed that some of those have already paid their license fees.

Before the Board made the decision, she outlined several administrative issues such a deferral would create including the fact that she is obligated to submit a list to the Wyoming Supreme Court after December 15th reporting all those who remain in default of the license fee. She shared that if the Board approved the deferrals, she would want to get the Court involved, as this could potentially create two different lists—those not in compliance by December 15th and those potentially not compliant after the deferral deadline.

Executive Director Wilkinson also explained that there is already a mechanism in place for these situations and that is the Order to Show Cause issued by the Court to any member in default of the license fee. She shared that this is the members' opportunity to plead their case or "show cause" as to why their license should not be suspended. The Court would then make decisions on the members' individual situations.

After discussion, Commissioner Melinkovich made a motion to deny the requests to defer the license fee payment. Treasurer Neville seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Melinkovich asked if Executive Director Wilkinson could use her discretion to waive any late fees. Executive Director Wilkinson explained the few circumstances when she has done that.

The Board directed Executive Director Wilkinson to bring any future requests before the Executive Committee for consideration.

Social Media Policy

President-Elect Gee shared that she asked Executive Director Wilkinson to review a draft of a social media policy she prepared. She shared that this policy decision was not really one for the Board to adopt, but she thought it was helpful to have the Board review it and bless it.

Mark Gifford clarified that Executive Director Wilkinson and the Bar's social media manager are the only ones posting to the Bar's social media sites. Executive Director Wilkinson shared that she reviewed the draft policy and updated it to better reflect the current process in place at the Bar.

Annual Meeting Wrap-Up Report

Executive Director Wilkinson directed the Board's attention to her wrap-up report in the meeting materials. She shared that she always sits down with the staff and the videographers the week after Annual Meeting to get any notes on paper for the improvement of future conferences. Also included were the results of the online evaluations for both the in-person registrants as well as the virtual registrants.

Selection of Committee Liaisons

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that all of the Bar's committees have a liaison from this Board. She mentioned that President Silva had completed all of his recommendations for the Court-appointed Boards/Committee but now needed to focus on the Bar's committees. Executive Director Wilkinson went through the list of current liaisons. There was discussion about who was interested in serving and those appointments were made.

President's Report

President Silva shared that the Natrona County Bar met recently, as eFiling in the Circuit Court went live, so they had a CLE program on that. He also reported that he is sharing information about which legislators' terms are up in his area and really encouraging people to run for those seats. President Silva also shared that he would begin coordinating with Executive Director Wilkinson on an upcoming road show.

President-Elect's Report

President-Elect Gee encouraged all Commissioners to invite the Chief Justice to their districts. The Chief is very open to these gatherings and having CLE credit available is an incentive for participation.

President-Elect Gee also shared that there are ongoing issues with the Public Defender's Office in the Sixth Judicial District being adequately staffed. While they made a couple of hires,

President-Elect Gee reported that those folks are only doing felony work. She shared that fully staffed would mean five to six attorneys would be employed. She shared that this understaffing is the third time this has happened in six years. She reported that the Legislature is considering cutting funding to the Court to the point that some of the staff will need to be let go. She shared her concern that if that happens, there will not be anybody there to even coordinate the appointments of counsel.

Judicial Branch Update

Chief Justice Boomgaarden and Elisa Butler joined the meeting. Chief Justice Boomgaarden thanked the Bar for distributing the Judicial Nominating Commission's (JNC) survey out to the membership. She reported a 14% response rate so far. She shared that the survey is important as the JNC looks at possibly making some policy changes. Because there has been some criticism that the judicial selection process is secretive, they are trying to balance more transparency but also keeping in mind the potential consequence of fewer people applying for the vacancies.

Chief Justice Boomgaarden reported that there is currently an opening for Judge Corpening's Circuit Court seat in the Third Judicial District. The JNC will be meeting soon to discuss the ten applicants and interviews will be held in Kemmerer on November 17th. She also shared that Judge Lavery will announce his upcoming retirement in December. He faces mandatory retirement on April 18, 2026. She also mentioned that Judge Greer is considering retiring next summer. She is also aware of a Circuit Court judge and a District Court judge will have indicated they will not stand for retention next year, so she will need to navigate those vacancies.

Chief Justice Boomgaarden shared that the education committee has approved a new and improved judicial orientation program that will include a week of overlap between the new appointee and the outgoing judge. There will still be an extensive orientation that will take place in Cheyenne for all judges.

Chief Justice Boomgaarden shared that she has heard that members of the House of Representatives will bring forward legislation to force Senate confirmation for Wyoming Supreme Court justices and/or JNC members. The Court has prepared talking points for anyone who wishes to address this initiative. She shared her appreciation for the numerous lawyers and judges who spoke up during past legislative hearings.

In regard to the Judicial Performance Assessment, Chief Justice Boomgaarden shared that the branch's executive team has agreed to make a recommendation to the Wyoming Judicial Council (WJC) to create a new standing committee of the WJC to focus on judicial evaluations. The committee is expected to include membership from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and from the Wyoming State Bar. Chief Justice Boomgaarden thinks there needs to be a dedicated group to figure out what is a good, effective tool for judicial performance evaluation in Wyoming. She shared that she had a great conversation with a representative from the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS). This person headed up the working group on this topic and they put together a recent report. Chief Justice

Boomgaarden shared that if the WJC approves the committee, it would be very beneficial to have the IAALS representative present to the WJC at its March meeting.

In regard to the bench/bar relations, Chief Justice Boomgaarden mentioned that there is always room for improvement. She shared that the judiciary has come to the agreement that these relationships have to happen more at a local level and make sure that the bench is integrated. She is also wondering how to get prosecutors and public defenders involved in strengthening these relations. President-Elect Gee shared that she hears that prosecutors and public defenders do not want to engage due to a lack of trust; however, her message to those folks has been that they need to be in the same room if they want to fix the problem.

Chief Justice Boomgaarden shared that she has received some inquiries as to why the Supreme Court limits travel to Casper and Laramie for oral arguments. She shared that the Court always travels to Laramie for Law Week. She reported that the Court would be open to traveling to other cities, but they do not always have the resources to lead the planning and logistics. The Chief encouraged the Commissioners to spread the word in their judicial districts and encourage the local bars to reach out with an invitation. She shared that the Court typically could look to two to three oral arguments remotely.

Chief Justice Boomgaarden provided an overview of the judicial branch's budget and mentioned that there has been discussion about a 30% cut to the budget, as some in the Legislature are interested in going back to pre-Covid budget numbers. She mentioned that the branch does have an exception budget request, which is a direct result of doing business in a modern judicial system. She discussed numerous issues related to outdated technological equipment and reported that the particular account in which these costs are assessed will be in the red by BSY 2029. She discussed the two mechanisms by which the branch can provide sustainability to that account.

Chief Justice Boomgaarden shared that the WJC is requesting that the \$40 JSA filing fee be increased by \$20 to help cover the cost of the obsolete audio/visual equipment and software in courtrooms. This request will go before the Joint Appropriations Committee.

Chief Justice Boomgaarden reminded the Board that the Court will be handing down some high-profile decisions soon—the abortion decision will likely be out by the end of the year, and the school finance case will be argued next week in the historic courtroom in the Capitol. She also mentioned that briefing is now in progress on State Superintendent of Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder' challenge to the voucher program. The Chief Justice emphasized the fact that lawyers have an obligation under the preamble to the Rules of Professional Conduct to ensure that the public understands our judicial system and how it works. She encouraged lawyers to acknowledge that there are lawyers and litigants every day who do not like the outcome of their case—that is the nature of what lawyers do. However, she emphasized that members of the Bar have an obligation to stand for the Rule of Law in this environment. Chief Justice Boomgaarden mentioned that the branch is putting together a communications plan surrounding these high-profile cases.

Various Board members shared some of their frustrations with the technology in the courtrooms and one shared a concern that a particular Circuit Court clerk is telling people that hearings are not open to the public.

Chief Justice Boomgaarden shared that the WJC is working to build trust. Mark Gifford shared that he has some ideas about why the public does not have confidence in the judicial branch. He shared that when he first started practicing law, it seemed that the judges were involved in their communities. He wrote his Office of Bar Counsel column for the October *Wyoming Lawyer* about the importance of judges getting involved in community engagement. He encouraged the Chief Justice to encourage that amongst members of the bench.

Equal Justice Wyoming/Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation Update

Angie Dorsch, Executive Director of Equal Justice Wyoming and its Foundation, joined the meeting. She reported that the Equal Justice Wyoming staff is now fully under the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and instead of a governing board, that body has been transitioned to an advisory committee. The committee now makes recommendations that go to the Wyoming Judicial Council (WJC). This change has resulted in different timelines for the grant-making process. She discussed the process and the new deadlines. She also shared how both Equal Justice Wyoming (EJW) and the Equal Justice Wyoming Foundation (EJWF) understand the need for separate grant-making processes, but they are in agreement about making the process easy and streamlined for the grantees.

Angie Dorsch mentioned that she and her staff have been working with the AOC on updating and providing resources on the new website. She reported that there is now an interactive guide that walks users through a series of questions. The system does the screening and only shows the user resources that are relevant. She also reported that her staff continues to work with the judicial branch forms committee on updating numerous self-help forms.

Angie Dorsch reminded the Board that the last legal needs assessment was conducted in 2019-2020 and there is a need for a new one. Because it is such a big undertaking, there is a steering committee made up of individuals from all stakeholder groups. She anticipates that work will start in February 2026 and be done by late fall 2026. Ms. Dorsch is hopeful that the results of the needs assessment will inform the stakeholders and reveal information to highlight gaps and find ways to address those.

Angie Dorsch provided an overview of the separation of EJWF from the Court. She and the EJWF Board are working through this transition with a team from Align.

Vice President Jennifer Kirk, who also serves on the EJW Advisory Committee, shared that Angie Dorsch has done a great job navigating the numerous transitions with both positions at EJW and EJWF. She shared that she hopes this is a turn towards a more positive path.

Angie Dorsch reported that the strategic realignment with EJW, EJWF and the Access to Justice Commission took place in September. She shared that it was a good opportunity to understand some of the separations while at the same time realizing that these groups still

need to be connected and have good communications, as all parties were on board about the people that each group serves.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that the Bar is in the middle of the annual license fee cycle. She shared that out of 3,812 members who owe an annual license fee, 1,730 (45%) have paid so far. She shared that requests for status changes always increase this time of year and reported that she has processed 52 status changes since October 1st, which is the first day of the license fee cycle.

Executive Director Wilkinson reminded the Board that it approved adding some questions to the license fee statement this year—one of them being, “Do you expect to retire or otherwise end your legal practice within the next five years?” She reported that to date, 214 members have indicated that they do plan to retire within five years—135 of those reside in Wyoming.

Executive Director Wilkinson reported that the Bar office got a new roof in September. She shared that the old roof was the original roof from 2008. She shared that the Bar only had to pay the \$5,000 deductible.

Executive Director Wilkinson shared that preliminary field work for the annual financial audit will begin in the office next week and reminded the Board that Robert Dahill from McGee, Hearne & Paiz, LLP will be in attendance at the January meeting in Laramie to present the audit report.

Executive Director Wilkinson was pleased to report that since the Board made the decision to discontinue printing the directory, she has only heard from three members of the Bar about the decision.

Commissioners' Reports

- ***First Judicial District*** – Commissioner Humphrey shared that somebody left an explosive device at the State Capitol, so many offices were shut down and several businesses were evacuated. His office was one of them. He shared that there seems to be some interest in restarting the Laramie County Bar Association. He shared that they do have checking account with a balance, but nobody can find the bylaws. He also shared that the judges are even interested in participating.
- ***Second Judicial District*** – Commissioner Waldrip shared that they also have a bank account for their county bar and are trying to figure this out. Treasurer Neville shared that the Albany County Bar Associated hosted a social event and Dean Julie Hill was in attendance.
- ***Third Judicial District*** – Commissioner Petri shared that they had a CLE on eFiling with both District Court judges and a Circuit Court judge in attendance. He shared that there is also interest in getting the Sweetwater County Bar Association active. In the other counties, he reported that Judge Kaste has been doing CLEs on eFiling. He also shared some concerns he has about the new pro se litigant self-help forms.

- ***Fourth Judicial District*** – Commissioner Kessner shared that his district’s local bars are not very active. He shared that there have been a few CLEs but no social events. One of his associates was an officer in the Sheridan County Bar Association, but he left the firm in September. He shared that he received some feedback from his paralegal about her concern with confidentiality with eFiling. Commissioner Kessner shared that something he is noticing in his district is that there is so much demand for legal work. His firm is turning away numerous cases and referring them to the Bar’s Lawyer Referral Service. He shared that last year alone, his firm screened 654 client calls that were turned away.
- ***Fifth Judicial District*** – Commissioner Scott Kolpitcke shared that it has been very quiet in his district. He reported hearing nothing from the Park County Bar Association, but he will check to see if there is any interest in getting that active again. Vice President Kirk shared that Janci Baxter used to be in a leadership role there.
- ***Sixth Judicial District*** – Commissioner Kyle Ferris shared that the Campbell County Bar Association enjoyed a presentation by a Wyoming Supreme Court justice and they had a good turnout. He reported a lot of frustration surround eFiling—especially from the older members. He is concerned they will lose some of the aging members if there are no improvements with eFiling. He also shared that there has been push-back from the District Court clerks about their obligations and what they can and cannot do.
- ***Seventh Judicial District*** – Commissioner Emily Madden shared that they hosted oral argument and had a good turnout. She also shared that they recently sent out a review for the municipal court judges.
- ***Eighth Judicial District*** – Commissioner Anne Wasserburger shared that her district hosts an annual get-together, and they are considering hosting it in Lusk next summer. She shared that Judge Brown was sworn in a couple of months ago and she now splits her time between Goshen and Platte Counties. She reported hearing positive things about the judge.
- ***Ninth Judicial District*** – Commissioner Melinkovich reported that things seem good in his district. They do not have an active Sublette County Bar Association, but they too have a bank account. He has been working with other lawyers to figure out what to do with the money and get the group more active.

Board/Committee Liaison Reports

- ***Civil Pattern Jury Instructions Committee*** – Commissioner Madden shared that this committee continues to meet regularly. Brianne Phillips serves as the new chair. She reported that the committee would like to get more feedback from the membership on the instructions and shared that Ms. Phillips will be touching base with Executive Director Wilkinson soon.
- ***Continuing Legal Education Committee*** – no report
- ***Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee*** – Commissioner Melinkovich shared that they have finally resolved the instructions around prostitution.
- ***Juvenile Pattern Jury Instructions Committee*** - Executive Director Wilkinson shared that Tori Kricken has agreed to chair this committee, so she anticipates there will be some activity.

President P. Craig Silva adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m. on Friday, November 7, 2025.

Minutes Submitted by:

Sharon Wilkinson
Executive Director