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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Wyoming State Bar

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WYOMING STATE BAR

September 5, 6, 7, & 8, 1973

Casper, Wyoming

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Integrated Bar and the 58th Annual Meeting of the Wyoming State Bar was called to order by President Houston G. Williams at 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the Ramada Inn in Casper, Wyoming.

Following President Williams' opening remarks, G. Joseph Cardine, President of the Natrona County Bar Association, made a welcoming address to those assembled. Thomas Morgan, President-Elect, responded on behalf of the bar association.

President Williams then called upon Joseph E. Darrah, Secretary-treasurer for the Secretary-treasurer's report. Upon timely motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting was avoided and the Treasurer's report was given. Following the Treasurer's report, President Williams then gave his annual report to the association.

Next, President Williams introduced Mr. Harold Cramer of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, and Dr. Lee Morris, of the same city, the vice-president of the Insurance Company of North America, and Ross D. Copenhaver, a Powell attorney, for a presentation and analysis of prepaid legal insurance and proposed plans which might be implemented by the Wyoming State Bar. The panel discussion was followed by a question and answer period which lasted until 12:00 o'clock noon.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 o'clock p.m., whereupon President Williams presented the Honorable William H. Erickson of Denver, Colorado, a justice of the Supreme Court of Colorado. The Honorable Erickson presented to the Bar a resume of the American Bar Association Standards of Criminal Justice and gave brief historical background with regard to the same.

President Williams then presented General Kenneth G. Hodson of Falls Church, Virginia, the Chief Judge of the U.S. Army Court

of Military Review. General Hodson discussed primarily the subject of providing defense counsel at public expense with emphasis upon the Standards of Criminal Justice in that regard.

Thereupon, Gerald Gallivan of the University of Wyoming, College of Law, reported on the efforts and developments in upgrading criminal justice in the state of Wyoming with due regard to the American Bar Association's standards.

Immediately after the presentation by Professor Gallivan, President Williams introduced John J. O'Connor, Jr., of Chicago, Illinois, a Staff Director of the American Bar Association Standing Committee of Lawyer Referral Services. Mr. O'Connor pointed out that the state of Wyoming was the only state in the union without any type of lawyer referral program and gave an interesting discussion on how a statewide lawyer referral service could be implemented in Wyoming.

After thanking Mr. O'Connor, President Williams then recognized Curtis L. Harden of Casper, Wyoming, the Director of the Legal Aid Services, Inc. President Williams explained that Mr. Harden was the Chairman of the Wyoming State Bar Committee on statewide Legal Aid Services. Mr. Harden also introduced Mr. Richard Bostwick who gave a brief history on the legal aid services program that had been implemented in Casper. Thereupon, Mr. Harden gave the state bar committee report on statewide legal aid services.

Following the report of Mr. Harden, this motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously passed:

I move that the report of the "Legal Aid Services Committee" be accepted, that the recommendations made be adopted and that the President be authorized to appoint an executive committee of six, one from each program area set out in Phase I (Exhibit 2) annexed to the report with instructions to:

- (a) Explore availability of sufficient funding to commence a state legal services program;
- (b) Apply for funding, and if the application is approved,
- (c) Incorporate "Wyoming Legal Services, Inc." as a non-profit corporation with members of the executive committee as incorporators-directors in the form set out in the committee report, and including in the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws such special conditions as may be required by the funding authority;
- (d) Implement a legal service program according to committee recommendations.

Also on the program was Mr. Charles G. Newton of the office of State-Federal Relations in Cheyenne who gave the present status report of the OEO programs still in existence in the state of Wyoming.

Lawrence H. Averill, also a professor at the University of Wyoming College of Law, and Chairman of the Wyoming State Bar Uniform Probate Committee gave a brief background on committee efforts to date. Professor Averill was accompanied in his report by Charles G. Kepler, a Cody attorney. Mr. Kepler reported on the legislative judiciary subcommittee progress toward getting a new probate code approved.

President Williams then adjourned the meeting at 4:30 o'clock p.m. At 6:30 o'clock p.m. there followed a cocktail party, courtesy of the Title Guaranty Company of Wyoming, followed by dinner at the Ramada Inn.

The Friday morning meeting commenced at the Ramada Inn at 9:00 o'clock a.m. President Williams first introduced Marty Sweeney, Tom Jones, Robert Brown, Michael Morgan, Michael Wass, and Yogi Allen, all law students at the University College of Law, for a presentation which included reports on the law review, clinical programs and their relation to the Wyoming Bar, a curriculum report, a profile of the class of 1974, pressing problems facing the College of Law, and law students' activities including an invitation to the Wyoming State Bar to attend programs and functions geared toward better co-ordination and more meaningful relations between the College of Law and the State Bar Association.

President Williams, after thanking the law students for a very well-received presentation, presented Mr. Frank N. Bratton, Chairman of the Committee of State General Practice Organization of the American Bar Association for a discussion of the activities of the General Practice Section. Mr. Bratton, an Athens, Tennessee, attorney, explained the enormous benefits to be obtained from membership in the General Practice Section, and also gave an enlightening background on the relationship of the general practitioners to the Tennessee Bar Association.

Thereupon, President Williams introduced Robert E. Holstedt, a Sheridan attorney, and Secretary of the Grievance Committee of the Wyoming State Bar for a discussion on Wyoming's new disciplinary code. Mr. Holstedt, after identifying the members of the committee, reported on the activities of the disciplinary committee, and related that the major problem with regard to complaints against members of the Bar was apparently a lack of communication between the attorneys and their clients.

William J. Kirven, a Buffalo attorney and the State Bar delegate, then gave his report on the year's activities with the American Bar Association, including primarily a report on the activities nationally relating to no-fault insurance.

After Mr. Kirven's report the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 o'clock noon, whereupon the members retired for a joint luncheon with the ladies. The business meeting reconvened at 1:30 o'clock p.m. with a report from Mr. Richard R. Bostwick, a Casper attorney and a member of the Permanent Rules Committee.

Thereupon followed a very well-attended debate between Mr. Bostwick and Mr. G. L. Spence, a Casper attorney, with regard to a proposed amendment to Rule 72(a) of the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure. After the presentation by both Mr. Spence and Mr. Bostwick a motion was duly made from the floor, seconded and carried that the Bar Association go on record as approving a proposed amendment to Rule 72(a) to provide that an appeal could be taken from an order granting a new trial.

After the rules committee report and discussion, President Williams introduced John Ackerman, a Casper attorney, who explained and discussed the public defender program being implemented in Casper.

Immediately following Mr. Ackerman's report, Mr. James Owens, a Casper attorney and Chairman of the Young Lawyers Committee gave a report with regard to the proposed Young Lawyers Committee and its progress on becoming affiliated with the Young Lawyers Section of the American Bar Association. Thereupon, Mr. Howell C. McDaniel, Jr., the Chairman of the Client Security Fund Committee, gave his report. Lawrence A. Yonkee of Sheridan then reported as Chairman of the Legislation Committee, followed by the Continuing Legal Education Committee Report by Chairman David A. Scott, a Casper attorney. Michael Sullivan, a Casper attorney and member of the Necrology Committee presented the Necrology Report. Mr. William Rohrbach, a Cody attorney, then presented the annual Auditing Committee report which was duly approved and unanimously accepted.

Mr. Rex Arney, a Sheridan attorney and a member of the Resolutions Committee then gave that report which resulted in the following resolutions being unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. I

WHEREAS, the members of the Wyoming State Bar were privileged to have enjoyed the hospitality and generosity of the Natrona County Bar Association, the wives and members thereof, the City of Casper, the Ramada Inn, the Title Guaranty Company of Wyoming, Inc. and its agents in Wyoming, West Publishing Company, Michie Company, Commerce Clearing House, Prentice Hall, Shepard's Citations, Bancroft Whitney Company, First National Bank of Casper, The Wyoming National Bank of Casper, Hilltop National

Bank, Western National Bank, Security Bank & Trust Company, during the 58th Annual Meeting of the Wyoming State Bar at Casper, Wyoming held on September 5, 6, 7, & 8, 1973; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Wyoming State Bar are desirous of expressing their appreciation, thanks, and gratitude to all who have made their meeting so successful and memorable;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wyoming State Bar in session duly assembled on the 7th day of September, 1973, does hereby express to the above named the appreciation, thanks, and gratitude of all its members and wives who have attended this annual meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary-treasurer of the Wyoming State Bar send copies of this resolution to the parties named herein.

RESOLUTION NO. II

WHEREAS, the Wyoming State Bar has been fortunate in having the following men participate and contribute to various proceedings and meetings, to-wit: The Honorable Chesterfield Smith, President, American Bar Association, Lakeland, Florida; Harold Cramer, Past Chancellor, Philadelphia Bar Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Dr. Lee Morris, Vice-President, Insurance Company of America, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; The Honorable William H. Erickson, Justice, Colorado Supreme Court, Denver, Colorado; General Kenneth G. Hodson, Chief Judge, U.S. Army Court of Military Review, Washington, D.C., Falls Church, Virginia; John J. O'Connor, Jr., Staff Director, American Bar Association, Standing Committee on Lawyer Referral Services, Chicago, Illinois; Frank N. Bratton, Chairman of the Committee on State General Practice Organization of the American Bar Association, Athens, Tennessee; Harry L. Welch, President, Nebraska State Bar Association, Omaha, Nebraska; LaVar E. Stark, President, Utah State Bar, Ogden, Utah; and Ross H. Oviatt, President, State Bar of South Dakota, Watertown, South Dakota; and those members of the Wyoming Bar who so graciously participated in and contributed to the instructive and enlightening programs presented; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming State Bar has greatly appreciated the fine work of these gentlemen which has contributed immensely to the success of this 58th Annual Meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wyoming State Bar extends its thanks and appreciation to the distinguished gentlemen above named for their contribution to and participation in this meeting and that the Secretary-treasurer of the Wyoming State Bar send copies of this resolution to the parties named.

RESOLUTION NO. III

WHEREAS, Houston G. Williams has ably served the Bar of the State of Wyoming as its President this year; and

WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman is retiring as President of the Wyoming State Bar and the Bar regards it fitting and proper to recognize and commend his service and dedication to the cause of the Bar;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wyoming State Bar acknowledges with gratitude the service rendered by Houston G. Williams and that the Secretary-treasurer of the Wyoming State Bar shall send a copy of this resolution to Houston G. Williams, Esquire.

The next item of discussion was upon a motion to abrogate the minimum fee schedule which had been heretofore adopted by the Wyoming State Bar. Upon motion duly made and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the minimum fee schedule of the Wyoming State Bar be and the same is hereby abolished.

Thereupon followed the annual election by virtue of the rules governing the conduct of the Wyoming State Bar. President Houston G. Williams then declared that Mr. Thomas Morgan be seated in the office of the President of the Wyoming State Bar for the 1973-74 year.

Nominations for President-Elect resulted in only the nomination of Mr. William Kirven, and Mr. Kirven was unanimously declared elected to the office of President-Elect for the 1973-74 year. Nominations were received for the office of vice-president for Mr. Walter Urbigkit and Mr. Charles Kepler. After ballots were taken and counted, Charles Kepler was declared the winner and was thereby certified vice-president of the Wyoming State Bar for the year of 1973-74. Likewise, nominations being received for Joseph Darrah and Dan Burke for Secretary-Treasurer and upon ballots being counted and thereupon, Mr. Dan Burke was declared the winner and was elected as Secretary-Treasurer of the Wyoming State Bar for the 1973-74 year.

At the conclusion of the elections, there being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was duly adjourned at 5:00 o'clock p.m. in order that the members would be able to attend a social hour hosted by the Casper banks. This was followed by the annual banquet, which was highlighted by an address from Mr. Chesterfield Smith, President of the American Bar Association, presentation of 50-year plaques to Philip S. Garbutt, Sheridan, Wyoming, and Vincent Mulvaney, Phoenix, Arizona, the official transfer of the Australian Boomerang from President Williams to President

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Morgan, as well as the traditional transfer of the gavel to Thomas Morgan as the incoming president.

Respectfully submitted,
JOSEPH E. DARRAH
Secretary-Treasurer