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Report of the Committee on Judicial Selection and Tenure

Wyoming State Bar

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stitutional rights during his trial and conviction of the offense of statutory rape. We understand that the Conlogue petition for post-conviction relief has been filed and is now pending. Mr. Conlogue is an alleged indigent person. In this connection, the committee gratefully acknowledges the help of Justice John J. McIntyre of the Supreme Court of Wyoming, District Judge T. C. Daniels, President Jerry W. Housel of the Wyoming State Bar and Attorney Donald P. White of Riverton. Problems arising in connection with this proceeding have indicated a need to supplement the existing statutes relative to post-conviction proceedings—a matter which should be considered if the committee is to be continued.

In as much as the problem of the representation of indigent persons accused of crime is a continuing one, and one which is receiving a great deal of attention both locally and nationally, we recommend that the committee be continued.

Respectfully submitted.

COMMITTEE ON THE DEFENSE OF INDIGENT ACCUSED PERSONS,
JOHN RAPER, Chairman

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL SELECTION AND TENURE

Cody, Wyoming, September 11, 1965

Your committee has had only one meeting this year. Other meetings were not possible because of lack of available funds for this and other committee activities of the State Bar. In its report last year, this committee stated that it had considered the work of prior committees and of HJR 10 which was introduced in the Wyoming Legislature in 1961. That resolution called for the submission to the electorate of Wyoming of a Constitutional amendment to authorize a change in the manner of selection and election of judges. Your committee is of the opinion that most members of this bar are not familiar with the arguments either for or against the plan outlined in HJR 10. We know from experience that the adoption of a constitutional amendment is an arduous task. We feel that to bring about any change in the constitution of Wyoming, permitting the adoption of any new plan for the selection of Judges of our courts, should have the active and unanimous support of the lawyers of Wyoming and wide public support as well. We therefore recommend that the State Bar (through this committee) should endeavor to obtain all of the information it can with reference to the matter of selection and tenure of judges; that it should endeavor to arrange as many programs as it can during the year for a discussion of the subject before local bar associations, and that a speaker or speakers or a panel of speakers be obtained and the matter fully discussed at the next annual meeting of the Wyoming State Bar, looking to the adoption of an appropriate

resolution by the State Bar at its meeting in 1966. If such resolution calls for a constitutional amendment and is approved at that time such resolution (in proper form) be presented to and its adoption urged at the regular session of the Wyoming Legislature commencing in January of 1967.

At our meeting in Laramie last year the State Bar approved an amendment to the election laws of the State of Wyoming so as to provide a method whereby vacancies (which might occur between a primary election and a general election) could be filled insofar as the non-partisan offices of Justice of the Supreme Court and of judge of the District Courts of Wyoming are concerned.

This committee has drafted in proper form and attaches to this report a bill for an amendment to the election laws of Wyoming which includes the identical wording of the suggested changes approved by the State Bar last year.

1. Your committee recommends that the suggested bill be approved by the State Bar and that this committee be authorized to present such bill to the 1965 regular session of the legislature and to do whatever it can to bring about the enactment of said legislation.

2. Your committee recommends that the Judicial Committee should be relieved of the primary responsibility of looking into the matter of judicial salaries and retirement requirements and that these two items should be referred to and handled by a special committee to be appointed by the respective future presidents of the State Bar as the need therefore may arise.

3. Your committee also recommends that a permanent Judicial Committee be established, under an appropriate name, to act as a liaison committee between the judges and lawyers of this state and with powers sufficiently broad to cover the handling of suggestions from members of the bench and bar for improvement in the administration of justice in the matters of practice in the courts of Wyoming.

4. Your committee also recommends that within the scope of the activities of the Judicial Committee should be matters of continued improvement in the administration of justice and the study and report on the manner of appointing and electing judges to the courts of this state and their tenure of office.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL SELECTION AND TENURE

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