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## Report of the Committee on Public Relations

Wyoming State Bar

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

The 1963-1964 Special Committee on Public Relations consisted of the following members: James A. Tilker, Chairman, Robert A. Burgess, Edward S. Halsey, Harry L. Harris, Fred G. Loomis and John F. Sullivan.

During the year the American Bar Association inaugurated a law-for laymen newspaper column entitled "The Family Lawyer" which is made available without charge to daily newspapers. Copy-sheets of this column were mailed weekly to daily newspapers in Wyoming. The column is written in a simple, understandable style and features subjects such as family relations, parental responsibilities and liability for accidents. Through the efforts of your President, Jerry Housel, by personal letters to the editors of daily papers, we were able to encourage the publication of this weekly series in Wyoming.

It was felt that this column would augment the public relations activities of the Wyoming State Bar of the previous year, when we sponsored the publication of the Texas institutional, public relations ads in every Wyoming newspaper.

Due to budget limitations, your Committee was unable to print and circulate the public information pamphlets on subjects such as "Have You Made a Will", "What To Do In Case of an Automobile Accident," and "First Steps in Buying a Home." The preliminary work on these pamphlets was done by Fred Loomis, who "Wyomingized" recently published pamphlets printed by the Florida Bar and the Minnesota State Bar Association. It is your Committee's recommendation that this project should be finalized as soon as adequate funds are available.

Lastly, it should be noted that public opinion is formulated upon the composite of all of our individual contacts with the public. No once-a-year institutional, public relations program can overcome a negative reaction to our everyday behavior. Good public relations for our profession begins in *your* law office and in the courtroom. We must continue to be justly proud of our honorable profession and the adversary system. We must never be reticent to correct unfair criticism of the opposition counsel or the Court. Your client's concept of "a lawyer" is not just based upon his attitude toward you, but it also includes what *you* may have permitted him to think about the attorney for the other side.

We all want the public to think well of us because we are lawyers, rather than "notwithstanding the fact we are lawyers". Thus, your Committee does not think it inappropriate to again emphasize the fact that each of you, by virtue of being a lawyer, is an *ex officio* member of the Public Relations Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Your Public Relations Committee

by James a Tilker, Chairman