

2007 Agenda for the Wyoming Association of Municipal Courts

The primary focus of this year's meeting will be juvenile justice. There is little doubt that the fallout of the Virginia Tech massacre and the re-awakened fears of Columbine will cause a greater focus on juveniles. It is possible that juvenile "behavioral issues" that may have passed as an isolated incident or viewed as "minor problem" will be viewed in a different light now. Therefore, municipal courts can expect to see an increase in the number of juvenile cases filed.

It is reasonable to assume that juvenile behavioral concerns will take center stage at all levels of education. The threshold at which problems can be handled "in the school" will probably be lowered. Students with a history of "problems" may also face obstacles with admission decisions for all levels of post secondary education. In light of these projected developments, the disposition of a juvenile case must now factor in the immediate and long lasting impact on a juvenile's future.

The goal of the presenters on juvenile topics will be to highlight the present status of juvenile justice, help identify strategies to work with juvenile issues and also to identify resources to assist with handling juvenile matters. A further goal will be to assist parents, educators and citizens in understanding the shared responsibilities to address juvenile needs.

A second topic of discussion will be consideration of procedures used in municipal courts. The Wyoming State Bar's Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee has raised concerns regarding law enforcement officers prosecution cases in municipal courts. The Committee maintains that a law enforcement officer presenting a citation in court without a prosecutor is engaged in the unlicensed practice of law. A member of the Unlicensed of Law Committee will be present to explain their concerns and provide for a question and answer opportunity. We will have a roundtable/workshop to discuss to forge the Association's response to this matter.

Municipal court security will be discussed in a special session. Wyoming has been fortunate not to experience any recent publicized court disturbances. While that is good news, it is only realistic to expect that each municipal court must take all reasonable security safeguards to protect court staff and citizens visiting the court house. We will also discuss matters involving data security with an emphasis on electronic data management and document control.

Understanding new lawyers will be a topic of a presentation by Dean Denise Burke of the University of Wyoming Law School. She will share her perspectives on the needs and strengths of new attorneys. The goal of this session will be to bridge the gap between judges and court staff that have been "around a while" and new attorneys "fresh out" of law school.

There will also be an opportunity to discuss the "Crow" decision and how to develop practices and procedures to avoid even the mere appearance of impropriety.

Tuesday, May 15

11:00-1:00	Registration
1:00-1:15	Kickoff and Welcome
1:15-2:15	Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee Discussion of concerns regarding police officers acting as prosecutors as detailed in the April 5, 2007 Wyoming State Bar letter. Question and answer period to follow.
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-3:00	Court Security US Marshall's Power Point Program
3:00-4:30	Through with Chew Developments, trends and issues for juveniles Wyoming Substance Abuse Division
4:30-5:00	Business Meeting
6:00 PM	Ice Breaker/ Social Holiday Inn

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

- 8:30-9:30 Wyoming Youth ChalleNGe
Learn about the Wyoming Youth ChalleNGe Program
This is a co-educational, quasi military training and mentoring program for at risk youth.

Lt Col Shawn Powell, WY ANG
- 9:30-9:45 Break
- 9:45-10:45 Juvenile Justice System Nuts and Bolts

A discussion of the key elements of an effective locally based juvenile program. Learn about key ideas about how to start a program and where to find people and resources to make your program a reality.

Dick Berry, Assistant Director Office of Youth Alternatives
Jay Sullivan, Counselor, Office of Youth Alternatives
- 10:45-11:00 Break
- 11:00-11:45 Alternatives to formal detention

Sometimes formal detention is not the right answer and sometimes it is not an option due to lack of facilities. This session is about the technology of electronic monitoring.

Tom Zartman
- 11:45-1:00 Lunch on your own
- 1:00-2:15 Juvenile Justice Through the years. Distinguished Law Professor Ted Lauer will present his perspectives on where juvenile law had been and the direction it may be headed after Virginia Tech.
- 2:15-2:30 Break

Wednesday May 16

2:30-3:30 Understanding New Lawyers

This session will attempt to bridge the gap between those of us that have been “around a while” and “new attorneys fresh out of law school” .

Dean Denise Burke, University of Wyoming Law School

3:30-4:45 Understanding Addiction and Treatment Issues

Learn the trends and developments in substance treatment. Understanding substance issues will assist in handling criminal cases and may also be of value in potential workplace issues.

Presented by the staff of Cedar Mountain Center

6:00 Banquet at Cassie’s Supper Club

Thursday May 17

8:00-9:00 Breakfast for Executive and Educational Committee
Plan/Discuss 2008 Conference (Committee Members Only)

9:00-10:00 Roundtable /Workshop

This is our opportunity to consider the issues of police presenting cases in a pro se setting. This forum will be a basis to prepare the Association's response to the Wyoming State Bar regarding questions of the unlicensed practice of law. In this session we will work together to forge a uniform reply to the UPL Committee regarding changes to the operation of most municipal court proceedings.

Panel to be determined.

10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-11:00 New Privacy Laws and document control

Learn the impact of new laws to protect the unauthorized or accidental loss of information in the custody of the court system.

Mark Moran

11:00-12:00 Ethical Considerations for Wyoming Judges

Presented by the Judicial Council of Wyoming.