



June 2016

U.S. DISTRICT CLERK'S COURTERLY

CJA eVoucher

As of April 1, 2016, the U.S. District Court implemented eVoucher, a web-based program that provides for submission of and approval of payment vouchers electronically for our attorneys who represent indigent defendants under the Criminal Justice Act. The system is also utilized for paying expert service providers and court reporters.

The system is geared to expedite the processing of claims, providing attorneys and/or their designated support staff with a more efficient way of entering billing information, and supporting documentation for expenses into the system as the case moves through its various stages.

Early indications have yielded positive responses in working within the system. As with any change there are always hiccups in getting used to something new, but hopefully the system will continue to only get better for managing the payment process.

For more information refer to the link below:

<http://www.wyd.uscourts.gov/htmlpages/cja.html#eVoucher>

Reminder to Counsel

Please use the general Chambers email for any correspondence to the appropriate Judges:

wyojudgendf@wyd.uscourts.gov - Chief Judge Nancy D. Freudenthal
wyojudgeabj@wyd.uscourts.gov - Judge Alan B. Johnson
wyojudgesws@wyd.uscourts.gov - Judge Scott W. Skavdahl
wyojudgekhr@wyd.uscourts.gov - Chief Magistrate Judge Kelly H. Rankin
wyojudgemlc@wyd.uscourts.gov - Magistrate Judge Mark L. Carman

Wyoming Fun Fact:

How many state parks are there in Wyoming?

There are 22 state parks and historic sites. The largest is Boysen State Park in Central Wyoming. Yellowstone is a national park.

CM/ECF Training

Please note that CM/ECF training will now be offered once a month in Cheyenne on the 3rd Wednesday from 2-5:00 pm.

Nominations for the Sidebar?

Contact Tiffany Dyer at the

Clerk's Office in

Casper at 307/232-2620



DOCKETING TIPS

Non-Public vs. Ex-Parte vs. Sealed Documents

Please refer to Criminal Local Rule 49.1 FILINGS

(c) Non-Public, Ex Parte and Sealed Documents

(1) Documents to be filed as non-public, ex parte or sealed shall be differentiated, marked, and filed as directed in this Court's CM/ECF Procedures Manual, Section IV(L).

Non-Public documents are available to court users and all counsel in the case, but are not available to the public. All case participants will receive a notice of electronic filing (NEF), and will be able to access the documents using their CM/ECF login/password.

Ex-Parte documents are available to court users and specific case participants as determined during the filing process, but are not available to the public. All case participants will receive a NEF, but only those designated participants will be able to access and view the document using their CM/ECF login/password.

Sealed documents cannot be electronically filed by counsel. These documents are not attached to their docket entries, and therefore cannot be accessed or viewed by any participants. All case participants will receive a redacted NEF. Sealed documents are kept in secured storage in the Clerk's Office.

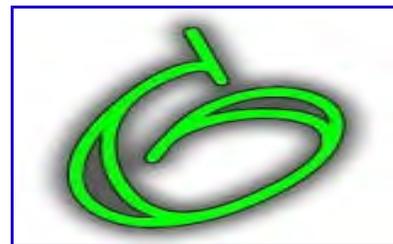
Friendly Reminder to Counsel

Please do not use abbreviations when e-filing.





The Geekbyte2



The U.S. District Court recently updated the audio/video systems for Judge Freudenthal's Courtroom in Cheyenne. The all digital equipment has fantastic sound and crystal clear graphics - a tremendous improvement over the older analog system that was installed over 10 years ago! Some of the features include two 65 inch gallery monitors, 21 inch monitors on the counsel tables and jury box, and integrated VOIP interpreter telephone lines. The judge can accommodate up to 5 foreign language defendants using the U.S. Courts' TIP line with full featured headsets, allowing the U.S. Marshal to increase judicial security by restraining their hands during hearings.

There is a new wireless evidence presentation system that is brand-neutral. Counsel can bring in their iPad, Surface or laptop and present evidence from anywhere in the room wirelessly. The image is clear and the wireless network is totally locked down so no outside interference will be detected. The only caveat on this is broadcasting streaming images. PowerPoints work great, but movies have some expected blurriness and are not recommended on this system.

We've even provided wired access to the attorney network at each counsel table, the witness box, and lectern, so attorneys can stay connected while in court. If counsel does want to plug into the system and are using protected content devices (MacBooks, certain laptops, etc), they will need to provide a connector to standard VGA inputs (for example, your MacBook may have mini-display port jacks, so you will need a mini-display port to VGA dongle). The VGA system will strip the protected content from their presentations and allow it to be seen by all viewers. Also, please note the native display resolution for this system is 1920x1080 @ 60Hz. If possible, set your laptop's screen output to that setting for the best viewing option.

We have even provided a small control panel at the lectern so counsel can switch input devices to help them during presentations. Just keep in mind the clerk's courtroom deputy has full override ability if you show something prematurely.

In short, this Courtroom upgrade was well worth the wait and we believe both active users and casual observers will agree this equipment is second to none!



SIDEBAR

The Profile of a Wyoming Lawyer



Christopher L. (Levi) Martin

Tell me about yourself.

I was born and raised in Wyoming. I graduated from Cheyenne East High School in 1990. I graduated with a B.A. in Accounting from the University of Wyoming in 1994, and graduated with my J.D. from the UW College of Law in 1998. My wonderful wife (Janelle) and I have two great kiddos (Tanner-15 years old and Bayleigh-12 years old). When Janelle and I are not cheering them on at one of their various sporting activities, we all enjoy spending time in the mountains —whether it be backpacking, mountain biking, hunting, or skiing.

Why did you decide to go to law school?

There were probably a number of minor factors that influenced my decision to attend law school, like wanting to delay going into the real world after undergrad, and movies like “To Kill a Mockingbird” and “A Few Good Men.” But I think it was more the colorful tales told by family friend, the Hon. Kenneth Stebner (retired), that really got me interested. Around many a campfire, Ken would share intriguing aspects from various cases he had tried both as a lawyer and as a judge. Ken portrayed a profession that was both varied and challenging, which seemed like the right mix for someone seeking to have a long, fulfilling career.

What was your first job after law school?

My wife and I thought we would be adventurous by living in Alaska for a while, so during my third year of law school I started investigating various potential positions there. I was fortunate enough to land a term clerkship with the Hon. Robert G. Coats (retired) who served as one of three appellate court judges for the State of Alaska. My clerkship was tremendously educational. I often describe it as a fourth year of law school, but without having to take out any more student loans. Judge Coats had a profound impact on how I analyze not only legal theories, but issues of fairness in the law, generally. He was a great mentor and became a good friend with whom I still keep in contact.

What has been your most rewarding or significant case?

Although I am certain that everyone has as much difficulty as I do in answering this question, there is one very rewarding case that stands out in my mind from when I was a fairly new attorney. I had just finished my clerkship and was working with a private firm that encouraged each new associate to, in addition to billable work, take a *pro bono* case from Alaska Legal Services (a private, non-profit corporation that provides free civil legal assistance to low-income Alaskans). The case I was assigned involved a native woman from a small Alaskan village town who was desperately seeking to obtain a divorce from an abusive husband who had also, unbeknownst to my client, accumulated a significant joint federal tax liability from bad filings over the course of several years. I was able to secure a favorable dissolution of the marriage and elimination of her portion of the tax liability under IRS’s innocent spouse relief process. The genuine expression of gratitude by this woman, who was incapable of navigating the process on her own and woefully unable to afford the costs of an attorney to navigate it for her, is something I will never forget.

What has kept you inspired and energized over the years?

When first reading this question I instinctively dropped into attorney mode and felt the urge to object to the form of the question as it assumes a fact which I have a difficult time admitting has been established—that I have been doing this attorney thing for a while now. Once coming to grips with that reality, I think the diversity in what I have done over the almost twenty years of practice has kept it fresh. In addition to my clerkship and my short stint in private practice, I was a criminal prosecutor for four years in Alaska. Then we moved back to Wyoming and I had six great years at the Wyoming Attorney General's Office (A.G.'s) where I had the honor of advising and representing the Wyoming Game & Fish Department (G&F) in an assortment of matters. The dedicated professionals I worked with both at the A.G.'s office and at G&F made going to work fun. My current position at the United States Attorney's Office has been a real pleasure for these last six years too. The office, at every branch, is staffed with fantastic hard-working folks, and the variety of work we continually get here in the Civil Division, especially with the Federal Tort Claims Act cases, constantly forces me to learn new things.

What do you like best about being a Wyoming lawyer?

Without a doubt, it is the fact that we get to know a lot more about each other than in big bar jurisdictions, and we recognize that while we may be adversaries in a case, there is a high likelihood we will deal with each other again in some capacity in the future. I like to think that translates into a more collegial approach to the practice of law.

Is there anything the Clerk's office could improve on?

No, I simply wish to take this opportunity to thank your office for the courtesy and professionalism I have experienced with every encounter I have had with it.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Go Pokes!



COURT REPORTER CORNER



Julie Thomas

Julie was born in Nebraska and grew up in Iowa. After high school she spent a year travelling with Up With People before moving to Phoenix, Arizona, to attend court reporting school at Phoenix College. Julie began reporting as a freelance court reporter in 1983 and worked in Phoenix until 2001, when she moved to Cheyenne to be near her parents as her mother was in end stages of her Alzheimer's journey. While freelancing with Wyoming Reporting Service, Julie reported in U.S. District Court as a Deputy Official Court Reporter. This was her first foray into reporting in the courtroom, and she was thrilled to be offered the position of Official Court Reporter in September of 2003.

Working for the court en banc, Julie has had the pleasure of reporting for all the judges of our District and is honored to be assigned as the reporter for the Hon. Alan B. Johnson. Having reported in the freelance field for nearly 20 years, Julie never dreamed she would be reporting in the courtroom, and it's been one of the best decisions of her life.

The other best decision was marrying the love of her life, Jana Thomas, in 2006. Jana and Julie became empty-nesters as of June 6th when, after graduation from high school, their daughter left for 10 weeks to work for the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps doing conservation corps work until she begins school at Fort Lewis College in beautiful Durango, Colorado, this fall.

She has served her profession as a board member of the United States Court Reporters Association and the Arizona Court Reporters Association. In 2014 she was appointed to the National Court Reporters Association Council of the Academy of Professional Reporters Item Writing Committee, which writes and edits test questions for the RPR and RDR written knowledge tests. These are skills certification tests administered to reporters nationwide. In 2010 she served on the NCRA Realtime Wireless Task Force, which was tasked with researching and evaluating available methods of wireless realtime services and authoring an industry white paper on the secure delivery of wireless realtime in the courtroom.

Julie loves music and has on occasion been seen singing at court-family events. She has sung with two different choruses over the last few years, so she hasn't given up those early roots from her Up With People years.