



September 2016



Wyoming Fun Fact:
What year did Wyoming become a State?
Answer: 1890

Nominations for the Sidebar?
Contact Tiffany Dyer at the Clerk's Office in Casper at 307/232-2620

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

U.S. DISTRICT CLERK'S COURTERLY

New Employees:

Please welcome the following new employees to the District:

Jasmine Fathalla –

Term Law Clerk to Chief Judge Nancy D. Freudenthal

Darren Cook-

Term Law Clerk to Judge Alan B. Johnson

Travis Jordan –

Term Law Clerk to Judge Scott W. Skavdahl

John Graham –

Term Law Clerk to Chief Magistrate Judge Kelly H. Rankin

Reminder to Counsel :

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

wyojudgetf@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

wyojudgetmc@wyd.uscourts.gov - Magistrate Judge Mark L. Carman

Courtroom Etiquette:

Please take a moment to review the General Order Regarding Use of Wireless Communication Devices.

<http://www.wyd.uscourts.gov/pdfforms/generalorder.pdf#2011-04> (page 15)



DOCKETING TIPS

Friendly Reminder to Counsel:

***Please do not use abbreviations when e-filing.**

***Please take a moment to review your CM/ECF designated email addresses. To do so, go to:**

Utilities

Maintain Your Email; Add/delete email addresses as needed

***Remember to update any information for attorneys or support staff no longer with your office. New staff can benefit greatly by being trained in CM/ECF either by the Casper or Cheyenne office. Keep in mind the login and password are issued to attorneys only.**

Compound Pleadings:

Please separate your pleadings for each matter upon which adjudication or a ruling of the Court is sought.

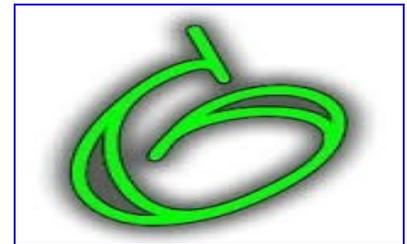
****For example—Do not file a Motion to Extend Deadlines, which is referred to the Magistrate Judge and a Motion for Summary Judgment, which is ruled on by an Article III Judge in the same pleading****

Remember, you have the ability to link /relate your filing to another document.





The Geekbyte2

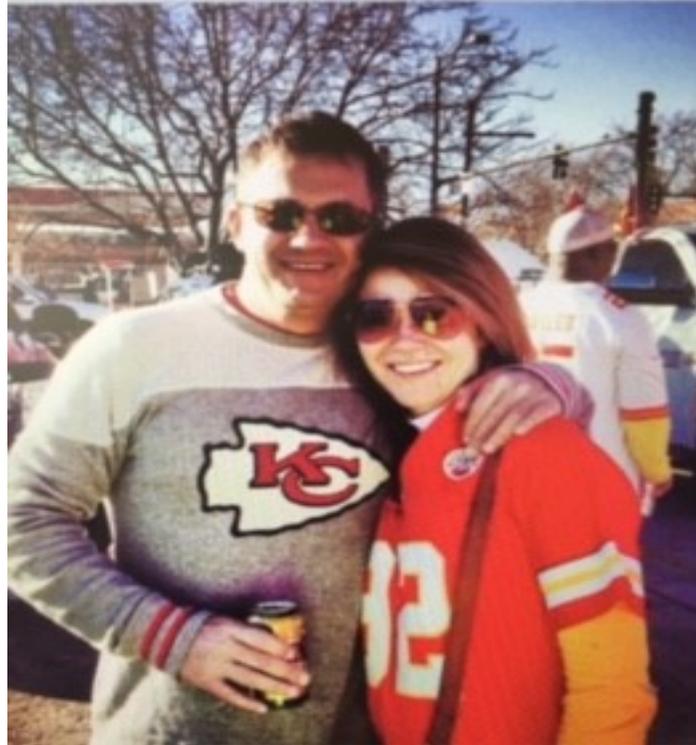


Our current Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) hardware was put in production 6 years ago in October so it's long past time to replace it. We are in the process of spinning up new hardware on a blade server in San Diego, CA which will provide full fail over redundancy in case a disaster strikes. If all goes well, we should be on this new hardware by the end of the year. Users should not see any latency issues even though the system is so far from Wyoming - in fact, many other courts have reported users seeing an increase in speed as the systems are on new faster equipment with more bandwidth to the servers! Please be patient with us as we work out any unexpected bugs with this transition - hopefully it will be transparent to you all.



SIDEBAR

The Profile of a Wyoming Lawyer



TOM FLEENER

Tell me about yourself.

I grew up in Ames, Iowa and am a long-suffering Iowa State Cyclones and Kansas City Chiefs fan. I enlisted in the Army out of high school. After serving three years, I got out and went to college and law school in Arkansas. I then went back on active duty as an Army JAG officer where I served for eight more years. In 2003, I left active duty and took an appointment working for Jim Barrett as an Assistant Federal Public Defender and have been in Wyoming (except for a two-year Army Reserve mobilization to Guantanamo Bay) ever since. I have a small practice in Laramie with my wife, Kelsey, and our two glorious rat terriers.

Why did you decide to go to law school?

My last job in the Army before starting college was as a legal assistant. I enjoyed that job and decided then to become a lawyer.

What was your first job after law school?

After law school, I went right into the Army JAG Corps. I spent four years at Fort Hood, Texas; three years in Germany; and, a year at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. While I spent some time in other areas of law, the vast majority of my time on active duty was as a defense attorney defending soldiers facing court-martial.

What has been your most rewarding or significant case?

My most rewarding case was very recent. I represented a graduate student wrongly accused of child abuse. After charges were ultimately dismissed, we went back to court to get custody of his child from the baby's mother who had made the false allegations. The judge who presided over his criminal case ruled in his favor for custody. My client now is a high-school teacher in Colorado and has full custody of his child.

I would say that my work in Guantanamo Bay representing detainees scheduled to be tried by a military commission was my most significant work – unbelievably fascinating and equally as frustrating.

What has kept you inspired and energized over the years?

Easy- my clients. I genuinely like my clients – almost every single one. Knowing that I am often the only person who cares about them motivates me. I also have found that by showing I care, my clients respect me and return the kindness, even if the results aren't what they were hoping for.

What do you like best about being a Wyoming lawyer?

The small bar and all the benefits that come from it. Everyone knows each other and looks out for each other. Some of the people I trust most are the attorneys I oppose in court. In many ways practicing law in Wyoming is similar to practicing in the JAG Corps.

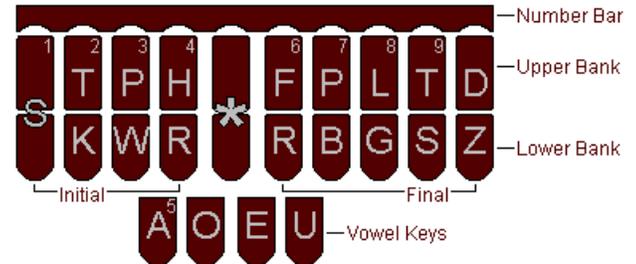
Is there anything the Clerk's office could improve on?

You guys rock. Seriously. I tell people all the time that defending a complex drug conspiracy in federal court is often easier than defending a DUI in many state courts. Electronic filing is ten times easier than paper filing in state court.

COURT REPORTER CORNER



A	A
K R O E R T	court reporter
K	can
W R EU	write
T H	this
TP A F T	faster
	E R
T H A PB	than
	U
K	can
R A E D	read
T H	this



How do court reporters write so fast? By Anne Bowline

The steno keyboard bears almost no resemblance to the traditional QWERTY keyboard. Multiple keys are depressed simultaneously – much like chords on a piano -- to represent letters, consonant combinations, whole words, and even entire phrases. For example, the word “court” is written in five separate keystrokes on a traditional keyboard but can be written in one short stroke on a steno keyboard, a savings of 80 percent effort.

The keyboard is arranged phonetically, with initial consonants on the left side, ending consonants on the right side, the vowels down below, and the number bar across the top. To see how we write “court,” locate the K on the initial (left) side, O and U down in the middle, and the R and T on the final (right) side. That’s an easy phonetic example.

Now notice how many letters of the alphabet are missing from the steno keyboard. This is where combinations of keys come into play. The word “boy” is written in one stroke but using a total of five keys. P plus W on the initial side is the letter B. E and U, written together with the right thumb, is the letter I. Phonetically, that’s BOI. Even though we’re using more keys than there are actual letters in the word “boy,” we’re writing it in one stroke rather than the three strokes required on a standard keyboard.

The fun part – well, fun to us! – comes in when we get creative and write phrases all in one stroke. “Thank you. Please be seated.” can be written in a single stroke, THAEUBS. Notice the T-H on the initial side, E-U (remember, that’s the letter I) in the middle, and B-S on the end. Hey, we call it shorthand for a reason! Everything we can write short saves us valuable time and, over the course of a long career, wear and tear on our bodies.

Schools require students to attain a speed of 225 words per minute to graduate, which is 3.75 words per second. Jan and Anne are both certified at 260 words per minute (4.3 words per second) and can write even faster than that in short bursts. We include much more than just words, though, as we write. Every time someone speaks, we need to insert an identifier for the speaker, whether that’s a Q and A during examination or MR. JONES and THE COURT during colloquy, and we insert as much punctuation as we have time to.

In addition to keeping up with fast talkers, inserting speaker identifications, writing punctuation, and discerning between homophones like there/their/they're and principle/principal, we also provide realtime to the judicial officers and court staff, a live stream of our translated steno. Realtime allows them to mark areas in the rough draft they would like to follow up on, verify whether an exhibit has been admitted, clarify if they feel they may have misheard something, and instantly read a question to which there was an objection. The judges and appeals courts truly hear you through our ears.

We love what we do and are always happy to explain steno and realtime. Stop by our desks so we can give you a demo and answer any questions you may have on making your best record.

