

Court Administrator
Holly A. Hansen

Telephone (307) 777-7678
FAX (307) 777-3447

October 31, 2006

Honorable John Hanes
848 Creighton Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Honorable John Hines
714 West Echeta Road
Gillette, Wyoming 82716

Honorable Jack Landon
120 Paradise Park Road
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801

Honorable Frank Philp
375 South Hidden Valley Road
Shoshoni, Wyoming 82649

Dear: Senators Hanes and Hines,
Representatives Landon and Philp,
Members of the Joint Interim Judiciary Committee and
Members of the Joint Interim Appropriations Committee

As specified in Chapter 237, Session Laws of Wyoming 2005, the Wyoming Supreme Court is required to report on the progress of the Guardian ad Litem Program. I am pleased to submit a report on the program's first full year of operation. As you know, responsibility for implementing the GAL program is shared by the District Judges' Conference, the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration, and the Wyoming Supreme Court. The District Judges' Conference established a three-judge GAL Subcommittee to work with staff from the Supreme Court on the details of the program's implementation. Members of the GAL Subcommittee are Judge Jeff Donnell from the Second Judicial District, Judge Gary Hartman from the Fifth Judicial District, and Judge Norman Young from the Ninth Judicial District.

Just to refresh your memories, the bill required the District Judges' Judicial Conference to recommend rules to the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration (Board). The Board adopted those rules, effective July 1, 2005, and they are available on the Supreme Court's website at:
http://www.courts.state.wy.us/CourtRules_Entities.aspx?RulesPage=DistrictCourt.xml

During the past 16 months, the Supreme Court offered the following continuing legal education programs:

Date	Training	Location	Credit
October 27, 2006	Roles and Boundaries	Gillette	4 hours
August 17, 2006	Credibility of Child Witness & Evaluating Psychological Evidence	Laramie	3 hours
June 27-29, 2006	Governor's Roundtable on Children and Families	Cheyenne	13.5 hours
June 6-7, 2006	2006 Annual GAL Conference	Casper	9.5 hours
April 12, 2006	ASFA and Transitional Living	Cody	4 hours
February 22, 2006	Family Centered Practice and Family Partnerships	Videoconference 14 sites	1.25 hours
November 5, 2005	Kinship Care	Videoconference 14 sites	1.75 hours
August 23, 2005	Educational Needs/Judicial Checklist	Videoconference 15 sites	1.5 hours
June 28-29, 2006	2005 Annual GAL Conference	Casper	10 hours
September 7, 2005	Methamphetamine Effects on Children and Families	Casper	1.5 hours
September 7, 2005	Biological, Psychological and Social Effects/Treatment of Methamphetamine Addiction	Casper	3 hours

Additional CLE-approved seminars applicable to GAL qualification, sponsored by other groups, are posted on the Court's GAL webpage as we become aware of them. See, www.courts.state.wy.us, navigate to [court initiatives](#), [guardians ad litem](#), [CLE calendar](#).

Every effort is made to videotape our training conferences. As a result, attorneys may borrow from our ever-expanding video library. Pursuant to the rules of the Wyoming State Bar, attorneys may obtain up to five CLE credits in any given year for self study. Watching a training videotape is considered self study.

Responding to requests from our guardians ad litem, the Wyoming Supreme Court has established a private listserv, at no cost to the State other than minimum monitoring/maintenance. This listserv will be released next week, providing a forum wherein issues common to all Wyoming GALs may be openly and freely discussed. Listserv correspondence is automatically archived; thus, over time, it will become a "practical" database of sorts.

The law requires the Supreme Court to enter into agreements with the individual counties participating in the program. The implementation of this

section was handled through Memorandums of Understanding with the counties. All counties have entered into the agreements. The Wyoming Supreme Court, the District Court Judges' Conference, and the boards of county commissioners in the individual counties are the parties to the Memorandums of Understanding.

As of October 31, 2006, 129 attorney guardians ad litem have expressed an interest in participating in the program. A list of qualified GALs appears on the Supreme Court's and the Wyoming State Bar's websites.

During the program's first full year of operation, the State expended \$630,769 in reimbursement, with the counties proportionally disbursing \$208,961 for GAL representation of abused and neglected children. Unexpended funds were reverted to the General Fund. A chart detailing those reimbursements is attached.

Yours very truly,

HOLLY HANSEN
State Court Administrator

Enc.

cc: Governor Freudenthal
Supreme Court Justices
District Court Judges
Jeffrey Schalow, Wyoming State Bar
Joe Evans, County Commissioners' Association