

Court Administrator
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October 22, 2008

Joint Appropriations Committee

Honorable Phil Nicholas, Co-Chair
Honorable Frank Philip, Co-Chair
Honorable Rae Lynn Job
Honorable Curt Meier
Honorable Ray Peterson
Honorable Charles Townsend
Honorable Rosie Berger
Honorable Steve Harshman
Honorable Alan Jones
Honorable Pete Jorgensen
Honorable Owen Petersen
Honorable Jane Warren

Joint Judiciary Committee

Honorable Tony Ross, Co-Chair
Honorable Ed Buchanan, Co-Chair
Honorable Bruce Burns
Honorable Ken Decaria
Honorable Drew Perkins
Honorable Kathryn Sessions
Honorable Deb Alden
Honorable George Bagby
Honorable Dan Dockstader
Honorable Keith Gingery
Honorable Erin Mercer
Honorable Monte Olsen
Honorable Lisa Shepperson
Honorable Mary Throne

RE: GAL Program Report
2007-2008 Biennial Report

Dear: Senators and Representatives:

When the GAL Program was established in 2005, the legislation included an annual reporting requirement. In conjunction with that requirement, the Supreme Court reported on the program's status, in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Effective July 1, 2008, the GAL Program was transferred from the Wyoming Supreme Court to the Public Defender's Office. Consequently, this is our final report on the GAL program.

The 2007-2008 General Fund appropriation for the GAL program was \$4,200,000. Of that amount, \$168,653 went to cover the cost of the employee responsible for administering the program, \$42,428 covered supportive services, \$43,823 was used for GAL training programs, \$2,373,105 was spent to reimburse counties for GAL services, and \$1,544,890 reverted back to the General Fund at the end of the biennium. In addition, the Supreme Court transferred \$27,000 to the Public Defender's Office, to help cover expenses it incurred relating to the program's transfer.

GAL Expenditures 2007-2008 Biennium

Personal Services (salary + benefits)	\$ 168,753
Supportive Services	\$ 42,428
GAL Training	\$ 43,823
<u>Payments to Counties</u>	
Albany	\$ 40,372
Big Horn	\$ 62,075
Campbell	\$ 190,977
Carbon	\$ 191,853
Converse	\$ 77,973
Crook	\$ 17,902
Fremont	\$ 56,271
Goshen	\$ 37,922
Hot Springs	\$ 20,752
Johnson	\$ 47,590
Laramie	\$ 459,575
Lincoln	\$ 0
Natrona	\$ 617,221
Niobrara	\$ 32,051
Park	\$ 178,774
Platte	\$ 39,912
Sheridan	\$ 103,033
Sublette	\$ 30,153
Sweetwater	\$ 55,229
Teton	\$ 70,535
Uinta	\$ 26,649
Washakie	\$ 14,434
Weston	\$ <u>1,851</u>
	\$2,373,104
Transferred to Public Defender's Office	\$ 27,000
Reverted to General Fund	\$1,544,890

The original bill required the District Judges' Judicial Conference to recommend rules to the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration. The Board adopted Rule 106, effective July 1, 2005. The District Judge's Judicial Conference and the Board are currently reviewing Rule 106 to determine the extent to which amendments need to be made in order to be consistent with the current administration of the program.

As of June 30, 2008 117 attorneys were on the list of qualified guardians ad litem. During Fiscal Year 2008, the Supreme Court offered the following continuing legal education programs:

Date	Training	Location	Credit
September 2007	Judicial Council/Wyoming State Bar Convention	Jackson	3 hours
November 2007	2007 Regional Conference on ASFA	Laramie	2 hours
June 2008	CJP/GAL Annual Conference	Cheyenne	18 hours 1.5 Ethics

To the extent possible, we videotaped most of our training conferences and we have transferred our lending library to the Public Defender's Office.

Under the original legislation, the District Judges' Judicial Conference and the Wyoming Supreme Court entered into Memorandums of Understanding with the participating counties. Those MOU's expired on June 30, 2008 and were not renewed.

In conclusion, the Supreme Court, Board of Judicial Policy and Administration and the District Judges' Judicial Conference are pleased to have played a role in the creation and implementation of this important program. We are confident the Public Defender's Office will implement this program in the best interest of the children it serves.

Yours very truly,

HOLLY HANSEN
State Court Administrator

cc: Governor Freudenthal
Supreme Court Justices
District Court Judges
Diane Lozano, State Public Defender
Sleeter Dover, Wyoming State Bar
Joe Evans, County Commissioners' Association

