



April 2023

## Wyoming Judicial Branch

*Administrative Office of the Courts Staffing*

*The Wyoming Judicial Branch needs additional staff to perform the constitutional functions of the courts*

**Wyoming AOC**

- Approximately 35 employees
- Divisions
  - Applications
  - Education
  - Fiscal/HR
  - Information Technology
  - Legal Resources

A recent report from the National Center for State Courts found that the Wyoming Administrative Office of the Courts is considerably understaffed, in comparison to other state courts, and by accepted standards for effective state court administration.

The NCSC made the following recommendation in its report:

4. The NCSC recommends that the Wyoming Judicial Branch adequately staff the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), to fully support the needs of the Judicial Officers, Court Staff, Special Programs, Human Resources, Applications, Education, and Auditing.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Based on comparative analysis, the Wyoming AOC is extremely understaffed to address the needs of the branch. The Wyoming AOC employs approximately 35 people in 5 divisions. In contrast is the Minnesota AOC which employs 330 people in 6 divisions and Washington AOC which employs 240 people over 4 divisions. The population of the state of Wyoming is approximately 579,495 according to Wyoming Population 2022 (Demographics, Maps, Graphs) (worldpopulationreview.com). The state of New Hampshire has a population of 1,389,741, New

Hampshire Population 2022 (Demographics, Maps, Graphs) (worldpopulationreview.com), but their caseload is smaller than that of Wyoming. The AOC of New Hampshire employs 50 people in 9 divisions. The state of Vermont has similar population (643,077, CSP STAT Overview | Court Statistics Project, and similar caseloads. However, the 2020 data indicates that the number of cases per 100K for Vermont is 15,192, while the number for Wyoming is 25,168. The AOC of Vermont employs approximately 64 people for trial courts.

The report followed a study of the Wyoming Judicial Branch by the NCSC to assess and recommend improvements throughout the Branch. The following excerpts describe the study's. The full NCSC report can be found on the Wyoming Judicial Branch website.<sup>1</sup>

Consulting services were provided by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The NCSC is an independent, private nonprofit corporation, founded in 1971, targeting innovation and the improvement of courts nationwide and internationally. This study assesses the governance of the Wyoming Judicial Branch and recommends certain improvements in the organizational structure and administration of the Judicial Branch.

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<sup>1</sup> National Center for State Courts, *Wyoming AOC Administrative Structure of the Wyoming Judicial Branch and the Board of Judicial Policy & Administration*, November 7, 2022 (<https://www.courts.state.wy.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2022-NCSC-Final-Report.pdf>)