

Office of the Attorney General

Press Release

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Attorney General Hoke MacMillan Announces Ruling in Community College Case

CHEYENNE -- Attorney General Hoke MacMillan is pleased to announce that on September 18, 2001, the Wyoming Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Wyoming Community College Commission regarding the distribution of nearly \$1.4 million to raise salaries at the seven community colleges to a predetermined level. As the Court explained, the Commission had discretion to distribute the funds in accordance with the apparent intent of the Legislature and the needs of the respective colleges rather than being required to distribute it through the formula used for appropriations of state aid.

The five larger community colleges had challenged the action despite the fact that distribution through the established formula would have thwarted the objective of the Legislature to raise salaries at all institutions to 90% of the regional average for similar positions.

The Court also remanded the case so that the Commission could establish uniform standards for determining how much each college needed to raise salaries to the target level for the past biennium, as the various colleges had used somewhat different methods.

Attorney General MacMillan stated: "We are pleased that the Court accepted this Office's argument that the Commission had properly interpreted the law to effectuate the legislative purpose to raise salaries at all community colleges to 90% of the regional average for similar positions."