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Michael Shickich, president of the Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association, has put together a class to teach people about how the legal system works. The class will meet on Wednesday nights from Jan. 14 through Feb. 18.

Law school for the layman

Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association
sponsors the People's Law School

By **THOMAS LACOCK**
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The Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association is sponsoring a course at Casper College called "The People's Law School", designed to teach people their rights and provide basic information about fundamental legal principles.

At least that is what the course descriptions says.

More specifically, the class, which is open to the public, will feature 11 lawyers, judges and presenters that will deal with topics such as bankruptcy, domestic relations, real estate law and personal injury. The course does provide 1.2 credit hours of college credit and costs just \$25. The price of the course is solely to cover administrative fees for Casper College. The lawyers presenting will not be paid.

President of the Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association Michael Shickich is Dean of the People's Law

School. The school itself is in its tenth year in Wyoming and sixth in Casper. Shickich, a Natrona High School graduate who practices law in Casper, has put together the class which meets on Wednesday nights from Jan. 14 through Feb. 18. He said he believes people have some idea about how the legal system works, but this class may help with specifics.

"I think people have a good sense of what is right and what is wrong, and that the legal system is a way that you have accountability," said Shickich. "Specifically I think there is a misunderstanding about how it works or how it doesn't work."

Clarissa Keegan of Casper took the class last year and said it was well-worth the time and money. Keegan grew up in Wyoming, but moved to Arizona for 12 years. After moving back to Wyoming, she went through a divorce and used the class to give her some information on divorce law in the state.

She added that the divorce law

was not the only thing she took out of the class.

"To me it was well worth the time," Keegan said. "It was not that much cost-wise and they brought in attorneys that specialized in those particular fields. There was a lot of in-depth information. After the lecture they opened up the floor for questions and you could ask them specific questions. I felt like I learned a lot."

That is high praise considering Keegan has a paralegal degree.

"I tried to get topic areas that I thought were interesting," Shickich said. "They (The Wyoming Trial Lawyers) support this way of making law more accessible to the public. Lawyers that have a specialty in an area will come and give a presentation on the law in that area."

Among the presenters, according to the syllabus, will be Natrona County Judge Steven H. Brown, Kelly H. Rankin, Assistant U.S. Attorney and Officer Scott Jones of the Casper Police Department. Rankin and Jones will be present-

ing on the same night from different points of view. Jones will present the law enforcement side, while Rankin will discuss criminal law from the standpoint of the plaintiff.

The following week, Neil Short will talk about the law as it pertains to Social Security, while Ann Rochelle will discuss trust and estate law.

Shickich, who is in his third year of teaching the class, will present on personal injury cases. He said the classes generally bring in between 30-40 people per course. In addition to his lecture on personal injury, Shickich will also offer tidbits of law information, such as what types of auto insurance people should make sure they have, along with when Miranda rights need to be read during a custodial search.

"I think it is good for the layperson to go and learn about the law," Keegan added. "If they are willing to make the time investment, I think they will get something out of it."