

CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
January 17, 2019

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Judge Wright at 1:26 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

3. **Approval of the November 27, 2018 Probate Assembly Meeting Minutes**
Approved.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

Judge Magistrali presented his report. The current balance is \$27,508.50. Report approved.

5. **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Judge Marino nominated a slate to be elected at the annual meeting in April, 2019. No other nominations were offered.

Proposed Slate:

Honorable Philip Wright, Jr. – President Judge
Honorable Michael Brandt – First Vice President Judge
Honorable Evelyn Daly – Second Vice President Judge
Honorable Michael Darby – Executive Secretary
Honorable Leah Schad – Recording Secretary
Honorable Michael Magistrali – Treasurer

Executive Committee:

Honorable Robert Randich
Honorable Beverly Streit-Kefalas
Honorable Jeffrey McNamara

Budget Committee:

Honorable Fred Anthony

A motion to close nominations was approved.

6. **Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

Judge Becker reported that the next Judges Institute is scheduled for March. It will include a presentation on mediation, ethics and social media and a case law update. The June meeting will cover ethics and professionalism. The November meeting will be jointly held with the CT Bar.

Ethics

No report.

Legislative

Judges Fox and Rowe recognized Vin Russo for all his hard work at the legislature. The Committee met in December and drafted a court operations bill. Some of the highlights: DCF must notify the court if there is a substantiated report against members of a household where a child has been placed, the filing fee will increase to \$250.00 and when eFiling is instituted, the appeal date will run from the date the decree is emailed or mailed whichever is later.

Planning - No report.

Procedures Review -

Judge Berkenstock reported that the Committee continues to meet and work on revisions.

Public Information -

Judge Blick reported that the next meeting is February 6 at PCA at 10a.m. She encourages all to submit ideas. Judge Blick also thanked Vin Russo for his service.

Conservator Guidelines - No report.

Floating Clerks - No report.

Hospitality -

Judge Yamin encouraged all judges to join and to attend the twice yearly conferences. The next conference will be held May 14-17, 2019 in New Orleans, LA. The Fall 2019 conference is in Philadelphia and Spring 2020 conference is in Colorado Springs.

Statistics -

Judge Dorval reported the Committee is meeting monthly and is reviewing all the comments received. He thanked Vin Russo for his hard work.

7. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator

Judge Knierim thanked Vin Russo for all his hard work and service. Vin's efforts have greatly benefitted the probate system.

Judge Knierim reported that Governor Lamont will present his proposed budget by the end of February. He related that there has been some conversation among legislators about the estate tax, which is a concern for the Probate Courts because forty percent of fee revenue is derived from non probate assets reported on the estate tax return.

Judge Knierim reported that the New Haven Children's Court and the Newington Probate Court both held gatherings to share information with local legislators. PCA is happy to support any such future gatherings.

The CMS alert system is running and all are encouraged to make use of the system. The hope is to promote uniformity.

Judge Knierim reported that the eFiling development is going well. Five courts will be piloting the program beginning in June: Shelton, Bridgeport, Region 22, Norwich and Windham-Colchester. It should be live system-wide in a year.

8. Remarks of the President Judge

Judge Wright requested recommendations for the pro bono award given to attorneys at the annual meeting. He also recognized Vin Russo for his service and wished him well in his new position.

9. Other Business to come before the Assembly

Judge Burt reported that the presentation held at the New Haven Children's Court was excellent.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Leah Schad
Recording Secretary