

MINUTES OF CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 6/27/17

Present: Hon. Cynthia Becker, Chair; Hon. Sydney Elkin; Hon. Mark DeGennaro; Bonnie Bennet, Esq.

Minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting of the committee were reviewed and approved.

Judge Becker and Atty. Bennet presented an overview of the CLE seminar to be held on September 20, 2017. The seminar will focus on matters related to children and will be for four hours of credit.

Paternity issues in Probate Courts will be presented by Attorney Tom Gaffey and possibly a probate judge. Amy Benjamin will present a potpourri of topics entitled “Did you know”. This section will highlight best practices in a variety of children’s matters, as well as the new ITC form and protocol. Robin McHaelen of True Colors will make a presentation on gender identity, followed by a session by Judge Lomme on name changes and amendments to birth certificates of Connecticut residents born out-of-state to reflect gender change.

The committee members discussed additional topics including the DCF Study process and a presentation by the Family Support Magistrates. Due to the amount of time allotted to the other presentations in September, these topics will be considered for future education programs on children’s matters.

Judge Becker and Atty. Bennet also presented an overview of the joint CBA and Probate Assembly seminar to be held in November. Judges Becker and Riordan have been meeting, along with Bonnie Bennet, with members of the CBA Estates and Probate Section and the Elder Law Section in the development of the agenda.

The seminar, scheduled for November 29, 2017, will include discussion of probate issues involving Power of Attorney Act; Conservatorships; Trusts; 2017 revisions to the Probate Court Rules of Procedure; Discovery and Hearing Management Conferences; as well as a “Did you know” section. As in the past, it is anticipated that practitioners and probate judges will present the various topics jointly.

The committee then discussed potential topics for the January seminar. Since it will be an election year, one of the topics will involve elections activities and ethics. Another potential topic, depending on whether it is ready to roll out, would be new conservator standards that are required under Public Act 17-7.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13 at 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to be held at Probate Court Administration.