

**Minutes of the
Modifications for Pandemic/Extraordinary Circumstances Ad Hoc Committee
September 23, 2020**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Judge Dorval at 1:05 pm.

Roll Call:

Attendees: Judge Dorval, Chairman; Judge Darby, Judge Wright, Judge Blick, Judge Brandt, Judge Randich, Judge McGrath, Judge DeGennaro, Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas, PCA Administrator; and Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet, PCA

Approval of Minutes from the September 2, 2020 meeting:

Upon motion made by Judge Darby and seconded by Judge Brandt, the Minutes of the September 2, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

Continued Discussion of items submitted by Judge DeGennaro:

Judge DeGennaro made a motion which was seconded by Judge Darby that it be brought to the attention of the Judges of the Probate Assembly that in the event a court is closed for any reason other than a holiday, Judges will not be able to use these hours toward their certification of hours.

Judge Beverly stated that she is willing to clarify that point to the Probate Assembly.

The Motion carried unanimously.

Judge DeGennaro stated that he feels an amendment to Section 26.3 of the Probate Court Regulations relating to CLE be clarified and amended.

After further discussion, Judge DeGennaro stated that the subject should be tabled at this time.

Judge DeGennaro recommended that in the event PCA and the Probate Assembly will not be able to provide sufficient education programs to satisfy the current regulation, a blanket waiver for 15 hours be provided.

Judge Dorval stated that it is currently the plan that at the Committee recommend to the Executive Committee at its November, 2020 meeting that the Executive Committee request of the Judicial Education Standards Committee a blanket exemption for all judges from the continuing education requirements, up to a total exemption of 15 hours of continuing education for this year.

Judge Brandt stated that this has already been covered in the Motion at the last meeting and so no further action is necessary at this time.

Judge DeGennaro was satisfied and there was no action taken by the Committee.

Judge DeGennaro reiterated his concern regarding how the COVID pandemic has affected the Weighted Workload numbers of those courts where the Judges are compensated based on Weighted Workload.

Judge Blick stated that in past years, she has had years in which the weighted workload was deficient to meet the next band of compensation. However, due to the COVID pandemic, the Court's ability to conduct work has been greatly diminished resulting in a court's weighted workload being lower and thereby affecting the Judge's compensation.

Judge Brandt questioned what if anything can be done where courts are unable to process their normal workload due to the pandemic, thereby affecting weighted workload.

Judge Streit-Kefalas stated she would obtain the information as to what courts are compensated based on weighted workload and try to obtain FY 2020 weighted workload totals for those courts to see how they may be affected.

Upon motion made by Judge Wright and seconded by Judge DeGennaro, the vote was unanimous to table this matter until further information could be obtained for the next meeting.

Judge DeGennaro stated he felt that there should be an appeal process afforded the Judges when they do not agree with PCA on weighted workload allocation.

Judge Streit-Kefalas explained the process when a Judge questions whether or not WWL has been properly allocated.

Judge DeGennaro was satisfied that there is a greater opportunity for discussion on WWL allocation than he was aware.

Other Business:

Judge McGrath requested that Judge Greene's memo and comments be included in the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee.

Next meeting:

Judge Dorval will send a notice to the committee as soon as a next date has been set for the next meeting which will be on a Wednesday afternoon via Webex Video conferencing.

Adjournment:

After motion duly made by Judge Wright and seconded by Judge Brandt, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane S. Blick

Diane S. Blick, Judge
Litchfield Hills Probate District, PD #24