

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Attendees: Judges Calabrese, Mahon, Randich, Berkenstock, Darby, Ganim, Dorval, Keeney, Wright, Fox, Streit-Kefalas, McNamara, Daly, Forgione, and Truppa, Probate Court Administrator Knierim and Attorney Bonnie Bennet.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:48 a.m.

2. **Correspondence:** None

3. **Treasurer's Report:** None

The proposed Probate Assembly budget for FY 2018-2019 was introduced by Chairman Mahon. Motion to approve was made by Judge Wright and seconded by Judge Randich. The Executive Committee approved the motion by unanimous vote.

4. **Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education – Judge Becker provided a written report. The education seminar scheduled for March 13, 2018 at Quinnipiac Law School had been cancelled due to snow. Most of the content of that session will be woven into subsequent seminars. The planned June 14 seminar will include topics related to Conservatorship (fraud & remedies), DSS Protective Services for the Elderly and spousal support in Conservatorships. An additional seminar is planned for September 2018.

Ethics – Judge Magistrali

No report

Legislative – Judge Fox

The Probate Court Operations Bill is moving through Committee with no problems expected. Any potential change to the current Probate Court budget is on hold.

Nominating Committee – Judge Marino

No report

Planning Committee – Judge Brandt

No report

Procedures Review – Judge Berkenstock

The Committee is working on a revision to Return of Claims to include more specific instructions. Also proposed by the Committee will be new forms for fiduciaries with regards to Guardian for the Intellectually Disabled and Conservator of Person in order to enhance

the understanding of duties being assigned. Firearms issues will be addressed at the next Committee meeting.

Public Information – Judge Purnell

No report

Statistics – Judge Dorval

Judge Dorval reported the results of 12 Committee meetings. Its job is to review current weights given to Court Workload and recommend changes. He distributed a 40 page handout which will be reviewed and discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting in April. The purpose of the proposals is to more accurately quantify work accomplished in Courts. Judge Knierim stated the end result will more accurately describe necessary staff resource needs for individual Courts as well as be a valuable tool in educating the Legislature about specific caseload and shifting public needs.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator – Judge Knierim

Judge Knierim described a February 26, 2018 meeting with the legislative Budget Subcommittee. Committee members expressed the high value placed on contacts with respective Probate Judges. The members emphasized the value of such communications for enhancing legislator knowledge and support for Court activities. Judge Knierim emphasized the importance of each judge's relationship with local legislators being a key element for success in the annual budget review process. The primary focus of PCA moving forward will be to ensure Legislators understand the need to restore "normal" budget levels for budgets beyond this fiscal year.

Judge Knierim also emphasized the importance of all Judges attending the April 20, 2018 symposium (4.5 hrs. of CLE) at Quinnipiac Law School to explore the topic of Unsupervised Probate, with presenters speaking of experience in Georgia, Texas and Massachusetts.

- 6. President's Comments** – Judge Mahon reported on the shock of Judge Dan Caruso's passing on February 25, 2018 and the strong turnout of Probate Judges (current and retired) at his memorable funeral (9 Catholic priests participating) in Fairfield on March 3, 2018.

Adjournment at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judge Timothy R.E. Keeney
Acting Secretary