

CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY MEETING
September 18, 2018

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Judge Wright at 1:03 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Approval of the June 14 , 2018 Probate Assembly Meeting Minutes**
Approved.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

Judge Magistrali reported that the FY2017-2018 budget was \$35,000, expenses were \$22,150.20. The balance was returned to the Probate Court Administration Fund. The budget for the FY2018-2019 is \$35,000.00. The treasurer's report was approved.

5. **Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

Judge Becker reported that there will be a Judges Institute on October 18, 2018. The next continuing education program will be November 27, 2018 and will cover decedents' estates.

Ethics

No report.

Legislative

No report.

Planning

No report.

Procedures Review

No report.

Public Information

No report.

Hospitality

Judge Yamin reported that the next NCPJ conference will be held November 14-17 in Hilton Head, S.C. and the Spring 2019 conference will be in New Orleans.

Judge DeGennaro reported that there will be a Social Event for Judges on September 20, 2018 in West Haven from 5:30-9:00 p.m. This event is to be held in honor of the late Judge Cravinho.

Statistics

No report.

6. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator

Judge Knierim recognized Bonnie Bennet in her new role as Chief Counsel.

Judge Knierim recognized Judges Ahlberg, Ganim, Anthony, Rowe and Wexler for their service in filling in at the Fairfield Court. He also recognized the staff of the Fairfield Court for their hard work. Judge Knierim recognized Judge McGrath for his service in the North Central Court following Judge Keeney's retirement.

Judge Knierim stated that the next legislative session is critical for the budget for FY20 and FY21. It is imperative that funding be restored to the probate system. The FY18 budget basically broke even, based on stronger than expected fee revenue and careful expense management. The budget numbers for FY20 and FY21 have been submitted to OPM. He noted that OPM permitted the proposed budget numbers to include compensation increases for court staff. This is the first time in four years that OPM permitted raises in the budget proposal. It provides a glimmer of hope, but we won't know if raises will be approved until the legislature actually adopts a budget.

Finally, Judge Knierim announced that random audits of conservator accounts are starting this month. There are five specially trained CPAs statewide that will perform the audits. The plan is to perform a limited number of audits on accounts that have been filed but not yet scheduled for a hearing in order to cause the least amount of disruption. The results of the audit will be presented to the court to assist the judge in decision making.

7. Remarks of the President Judge

Judge Wright welcomed all to the meeting.

8. Other Business to come before the Assembly

No other business.

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Leah Schad
Recording Secretary