

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2018

Attendees: Judges Mahon, Wright, Magistrali, Dorval, Randich, Marino, McNamara, Berkenstock, Elkin, Keeney, Truppa, Brandt, Schad, Probate Court Administrator Knierim and Attorney Tom Gaffey.

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

2. **Approval of the Minutes:**

Minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting approved.

3. **Correspondence:** None.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

No report.

5. **Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education – Judge Becker

No report. Bonnie Bennet reminded all that the upcoming June meeting will focus on opioid addiction and elder abuse among other topics.

Ethics – Judge Magistrali

No report.

Legislative – Judge Fox and Judge Rowe

Judge Knierim reported on pending legislation affecting the probate system. The Probate Court Operations bill has made it through committee. There is a proposed bill regarding visitation for conserved persons. There is a bill sponsored by DDS for GID matters. In matters where DDS has previously found an individual does not have an intellectual disability, in lieu of giving an assessment they can simply provide the original letter explaining their conclusion that the respondent does not have intellectual disability. The CT Bar Association is working to advance a bill involving trusts, including adoption of the Uniform Trust Code.

There is a bill permitting voluntary guardianships for unmarried individuals ages 18-21. There are two bills that are not moving forward, an amendment to the sterilization statute and an amendment to the quarantine statute.

The legislature has promised a budget by April 20, 2018. At this time, it appears funding for the probate system will remain at \$4.3 million and the automatic sweep will be suspended.

Nominating – Judge Marino

The slate will be presented for approval at the annual meeting in April.

Planning – Judge Brandt

No report.

Procedures Review – Judge Berkenstock

The committee continues to review and amend forms. Judge Marino requested that the committee look at redrafting the forms for commitments.

Public Information – Judge Purnell

No report.

Conservator Guidelines – Judge DeGennaro

Judge Knierim reported that the only substantive change since the last version of the Standards of Practice was presented was a change in the conflicts provisions. It eliminates the standard of review for payment for direct services provided by the conservator to the conserved and for conservators who are attorneys providing legal services to the conserved and only requires prior court approval.

Floating Clerks – Judge Berkenstock

There are currently ten clerks on the roster.

Hospitality – Judge Yamin

Judge Mahon reported that Judge Yamin has scheduled a Wine and Cheese reception on August 25, 2018 at the Sergio Franchi Estate in Stonington, CT for judges. The estate hosts a concert that day that follows the reception. Judge Cravinho was a longtime volunteer at these concerts so it is an opportunity to honor his memory.

Statistics – Judge Dorval

Judge Dorval presented the proposed revisions to the Tally Rules. The committee changed the value of court activities from the weighted workload scale to better reflect the work of all court staff using a 1-10 scale. The committee is now looking for direction. It was suggested that the revised Tally Rules be circulated to all court staff for feedback. The submission should be sent with the caveat that these new Tally Rules are not going into effect at this time. Judge Mahon thanked the Committee for their hard work.

6. Presentation on Proposed Court System Budget for FY19

Judge Knierim and Andrea King presented the FY19 proposed budget. They will next present it to the Chief Court Administrator for approval.

The budget presentation included FY18 cost reduction initiatives and the FY18 budget forecast. In FY18, the required contribution to the probate system pension fund has increased significantly as a result of policy changes by the actuaries.

In FY19, one of the proposed initiatives is E-filing. Judge Knierim reported that the RFP went out and PCA has received 9 proposals that are currently under review. He hopes to be under contract by June 1, 2018.

The FY19 budget reflects an overall increase of \$2.5 million from the previous budget. The increase is due to the following: salary impact from the new Family Specialist positions, an increase in the cost of health insurance, retirement fund

payments, IT expenditures and increased expenses for attorneys and conservators for indigents.

7. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator – Judge Knierim

Judge Knierim reminded all that the annual Probate Court Assembly meeting is scheduled for April 25th, 2018.

Judge Knierim announced that the Public Service Award presented at the Annual Assembly meeting will be awarded in honor of Judge Dan Caruso. Judge Marino made a motion that the Public Service Award be named in honor of Judge Caruso. The motion passed unanimously.

On April 20, 2018, the Quinnipiac Law School and the CT Bar Foundation are sponsoring a symposium on “Exploring Unsupervised Probate”. Judge Knierim encourages attendance by all judges.

8. Comments of the President-Judge – Judge Mahon

Judge Mahon announced that this was his last Executive Committee meeting. He thanked all the staff at PCA for their support and hard work during his tenure as President Judge. Judge Mahon will be sorely missed.

9. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee

Judge Elkin said thank to all the judges and staff for everything they did during his tenure as a probate judge. He promised to show up at meetings now and again.

10. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made.
Meeting adjourned at 11:18a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Leah Schad
Recording Secretary