

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2016

Attendees: Judges Mahon, Randich, Keeney, Magistrali, DePanfilis, Schad, Becker, Wright, Forgione, Lomme, Probate Court Administrator Knierim, Attorney Gaffey, Andrea King.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m.

2. **Approval of the Minutes:**

Minutes from April 13, 2016 meeting approved.

3. **Correspondence:** None.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

No report.

5. **Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education – Judge Becker

Next seminar scheduled for June 22, 2016. It will cover the Uniform Power of Attorney Act and various other issues. The next seminar is scheduled for September 20, 2016 and will cover children's matters.

Suggestion made to have a provider present on the topic of commitments for alcohol and drug dependency.

Ethics – Judge Magistrali

New changes in the ethics rules taking effect July 1, 2016. Discussion on how to handle specific objections from judges. Suggestion made to invite the objecting judge to the next ethics committee meeting.

Legislative – Judge Mahon

The vote on the proposed budget is still pending. The current proposal funds the probate system at \$6 million and caps fees at 440,000.

Nominating – Judge Egan

Judge Egan is retiring. Motion made to approve Judge Joseph Marino to serve as chair. Motion approved.

Planning – Judge Brandt

No report

Procedures Review – Judge Wright

No report

Public Information – Judge Purnell

No report

Ad Hoc Committees:

Conservatorship Guidelines – Judge DeGennaro

No report

Court Security – Judge DePanfilis

No report

Floating Clerks – Judge Berkenstock

No report

Hospitality – Judge Yamin

The next function is scheduled for June 10, 2016 at the Mark Twain house. Cost is \$50 per person.

Judicial Selection Working Group – Judge Elkin

No report

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator – Judge Knierim

Judge Knierim and Andrea King presented the Proposed FY17 Budget. The proposed budget assumes an appropriation of \$6 million and a \$40,000 cap on estate fees. If that cap is implemented, it would affect estates with a date of death of July 1, 2016 and after.

FY16 was reviewed.

FY17 Cost Reduction Initiatives include a change to processing CO-17's online. The major increases in FY17 expenditures are for kinship and respite and for indigency expenses. There are no salary increases budgeted for any judges or staff this year. Further, there were no increases for PCA staff in FY16 or budgeted for FY17. The increase in the salary line for PCA staff reflects the filling of staff vacancies and the addition of two IT staff members.

Conservator expenses continue to increase 10-15% a year. Mental health and children's matters are also increasing.

The proposed budget is projected to maintain the Fund Balance at \$2 million. Motion to support the budget as presented. Motion approved.

7. Comments of the President-Judge

Judge Mahon is hopeful for a good year.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee

Judge Forgione raised the question if a clerk retires and then comes back to work as a temporary employee, what is the rate of pay. The rate of pay is the market rate for assistant clerk. A suggestion was made to increase the rate to encourage retired workers to return as temporary employees, as they do not receive benefits.

9. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Leah Schad