

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 14, 2017

Attendees: Judges Mahon, Wright, Keeney, Brandt, Magistrali, Marino, Streit-Kefalas, Schad, Truppa (via telephone) Probate Court Administrator Knierim and Attorney Tom Gaffey.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:46 a.m.
2. **Approval of the Minutes:**
Minutes from May 10, 2017 meeting approved.
3. **Correspondence:** None.
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
The Treasurer's report dated June 14, 2017 was approved.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - Continuing Education – Judge Becker
Judge Knierim reported the next educational seminar on June 22 will have a section on ethics.
 - Ethics – Judge Magistrali
No report.
 - Legislative – Judge Fox and Judge Rowe
Judge Knierim reported on the status of the probate related bills after the legislature adjourned.
 - (a) The Probate Court Operations bill passed.
 - (b) The Conservator Accounting bill passed and was signed by the Governor. PCA will start working on policies for conservator account audits. The audits will start on January 1, 2018.
 - (c) The Medicaid Conservator Compensation Cost recovery bill. PCA is still working with OPM on the mechanics of this bill. It may be possible to implement without legislation.
 - (d) The Legal Age to Marry bill passed. Sixteen and seventeen year olds will only be allowed to marry with the consent of a parent and probate court approval.
 - (e) The Medical Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) bill passed. The existing pilot program will be expanded to statewide.

The legislative session ended without an approved budget. The Mitigation Bill that was passed deals with the deficit in the current fiscal year. The bill suspends the automatic sweep of the probate fund. Instead, \$3.4 million will be swept from the probate fund, but the remaining funds will be left intact.

Nominating – Judge Marino

No report.

Planning – Judge Brandt

No report.
Procedures Review – Judge Berkenstock
No report.
Public Information – Judge Purnell
No report.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator – Judge Knierim

Judge Knierim reported that there are policy changes that have affected the probate pension system. In the last report on the pension fund, the probate pension system was funded at 107%. Based on a reduction of assumed future returns on investment performance, the current report has the system funded at 84%. As a result, funding for the pension system in FY18 will increase from \$2.3 million to \$4 million. The fund currently has approximately \$90 million in assets and pays out about \$5 million annually.

The pilot project for the online billing system for attorneys and conservators is starting in July at five courts. The goal is to have the system implemented state wide by October, 2017.

Judge Keyes has announced that he will retire effective January 1, 2018. There will be five special elections in the coming year as judges retire.

7. Comments of the President-Judge

Judge Mahon presented an email that he received from Judge Greene. Judge Greene proposes establishing a committee comprised of a judge from each probate region to serve as a conduit for complaints from courts to PCA. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting when Judge Greene can provide more specifics regarding his request.

Discussion over rescheduling of summer meetings. Based on the uncertainty over the budget, both the July and August meetings tentatively remain on the calendar.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee

None.

9. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made.
Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Leah Schad
Recording Secretary