



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Continuing Education Committee

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

MINUTES

Present: Hon. Michael Brandt; Hon. Barbara Gardner Riordan; Hon. Martin Landgrebe; Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Chair; Attorney Evan Brunetti; and Attorney Francesca Knerr.

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

The committee briefly discussed the March 14th Judges Institute, noting it was well attended and informative.

The committee had a brief update on the upcoming seminar on June 26, 2024

- Appeals Of Probate Court Decisions
- Firearms Rights and Restoration
- Judicial Branch Situational Awareness Training, including de-escalation techniques
- The Connecticut State Library and Archives regarding the agency, probate records and related records topic
- Review of discovery in Probate Court proceedings, particularly regarding subpoenas in probate

The remainder of the meeting focused on discussion of the content of potential programs for the 2024 seminars:

September 18, 2024

- Reinstatement of parents in guardianship hearings
- UCCJEA
- Overlapping jurisdiction and differences between Superior Court (Juvenile, Family, etc.) and Probate Court
- Potentially a collaboration with Connecticut Bar Association to provide bench-bar programs integrating our Children's Matters focus relevant to attorneys and/or guardians ad litem

October 23, 2024/November 20, 2024

- Annual Legislative Update
- Revisions to Probate Rules of Procedure (July 2024 revisions)
- Interviewing techniques
- Overlapping jurisdiction within the State (between Probate Courts)

- Judges' favorite statutes: potpourri of judges presenting and discussing their favorite probate statutes
- When and how a Probate Judge may decline to hear a matter, for example under C.G.S. section 45a-98a or C.G.S. 45a-364

Potential topics for future meetings that were discussed include, in no particular order:

- Forensic accountings
- DDS placement and other emergency hearings
- Panel discussion on generating respect in the courtroom
- Disqualification process and Rule 15
- Complaints before the Council on Probate Judicial Conduct
- General history of Connecticut Probate
- Impact of trauma on judges, clerks, and parties
- Resources available from the Victim Services Advocate, Office of the Child Advocate and Health Care Advocate
- Identifying abuse with focus on minors, human trafficking, domestic abuse, elder abuse
- Basics on trusts and probate jurisdiction under the Connecticut Uniform Trust Code

The next meeting will be held on June 5, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting schedule for the rest of 2024 is as follows: August 21, October 16, and December 18. All meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator, Library.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus of all members at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Jeannine Lewis
Committee Chair