



## CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

### Meeting of the Continuing Education Committee

**Tuesday, November 9, 2021  
1:00 p.m.**

### MINUTES

Present: Hon. Cynthia Becker, Chair, Hon. Michael Brandt, Hon. Domenick Calabrese, Hon. Mark DeGennaro, Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Hon. Barbara Gardner-Riordan, Attorneys Francesca Knerr and Evan Brunetti.

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 p.m. by Judge Becker.

Discussion of possible 2022 Programs:

**Mental health:** It was reported that Judge Elisa Bartlett (Ellington) has expressed an interest in speaking on this topic. She has a behavioral health unit in her district. The committee discussed using a panel to include an attorney, social worker or clinician, and judge to discuss mental health and to frame it as an ethics program understanding mental illness. This topic will be explored for January 2022.

**Campaign Ethics:** suggestion to make it two-part program; first, nuts and bolts, and second, a panel to discuss potential scenarios. Judge Becker suggested Judge Knierim as a possible speaker, noting the quality of his past presentations on the topic. This topic will be explored for January 2022.

**Appointment of Conservator Decrees:** PCA will present on the complexities of decrees appointing a conservator. This topic will be explored for January 2022.

Discussion of other conservator topics, for example, hearing management practices, and/or how to handle an involuntary that turns into a voluntary at the hearing, and/or whether you can appoint an attorney in a voluntary if circumstances warrant. These topics and other conservator topics will be explored for later in 2022.

Brief discussion/confirmation to explore Mediation Training similar to the program in 2016, for March 2022.

The committee discussed exploring topics such as standards of conduct for conservators; determining capacity, perhaps focusing on capacity issues for respondents under 65 such as traumatic brain injuries, alcohol and drug use, mental health conditions, etc.; how to read physician's evaluations and best practices; medical evidence and management of medical evidence. These topics will be explored for June 2022.

The committee discussed exploring various other topics as well: sensitivity/bias and ethical training; review of drug and alcohol commitment procedures; panel of judges discussing “Cases From Hades”; understanding IQ; new legislation Public Act 21-35 regarding the DHMAS provision of a ‘mental health toolkit’ for employers addressing mental health impact of COVID-19 on staff; potential presentation by DRS on reviewing tax returns.

Next meeting will be January 18, 2022.

Meeting adjourned by consensus of all members at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hon. Barbara Gardner Riordan  
Member