



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

**Regular Meeting of the
Court Security Committee
August 21, 2023
10:00 a.m.**

Office of the Probate Court Administrator
186 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110

Present: Judge Domenick Calabrese (Chair), Cindy Wolfe Boynton (PCA Manager of Communications & Intergovernmental Relations), Attorney Thomas Smith, Judge Steven DeMoura, Judge Jordan Richards.

1. Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Judge Domenick Calabrese.

2. Comments of the Chair:

The chair offered comments during the discussion portion of the meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes of the May 8, 2023 meeting were approved following motion and second.

4. Discussion:

Correspondence:

Two probate judges contacted the committee regarding incidents at their respective courts. There was discussion about transfers of certain contested matters to the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters as well as calling the police in hostile situations as proper response.

The committee had a general discussion regarding the judges' letters and noted that hostile behaviors seem to generally be on the rise and are not exclusive to courts. There has been varying responses by local police departments from courts for police to be present at particular hearings. In addition to noting staff training, recent legislative proposals for enhanced criminal measures for threats against judges did not proceed in the general assembly.

Security assessments update & follow up:

Security assessments are crucial and the committee will continue to reach out to the judges to encourage the completion of such assessments. There was also discussion on whether a survey may be a useful tool to assess current and best practices in how hearings are conducted and other protocols to enhance security.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting scheduled for November 13, 2023 is to be rescheduled to December 4, 2023 (tentative).

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator: None.

6. Other Business: None.

7. Adjournment:

By motion unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted by
Hon. Jordan Richards
Litchfield Hills Probate Judge