



## CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

### Regular Meeting of the **Executive Committee** February 9, 2022

**Office of the Probate Court Administrator**  
186 Newington Rd.  
West Hartford, CT 06110

## MINUTES

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Barrett, Becker, Berkenstock, Brandt, Daly, Darby, DeGennaro, Fox, Jalowiec, Lewis, Magistrali, Maxham, McGrath, Randich, Schad, Wright and also Probate Court Administrator Judge Streit-Kefalas, Chief Counsel Heather Dostaler and Manager of Communications and Intergovernmental Relations, Jim Polites.

**1. Call to Order:**

Due to the continued public health emergency, the meeting was held in person and remotely via Cisco Webex video conferencing and was called to order at 9:46 a.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion was made by Judge Barrett, seconded by Judge Becker and unanimously carried to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of January 12, 2022 as presented.

**3. Correspondence:**

Judge Brandt reported that he had received no correspondence. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported she also had not received any correspondence.

**4. Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

Judge Becker indicated that she had nothing new to report. The next meeting is on February 15, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Judge Magistrali reported that the members of the Council of Probate Judicial Conduct are willing to participate in a continuing education seminar. Judge Becker asked that Council contact Evan Brunetti at PCA to coordinate possible participation in a June 2022 seminar.

Ethics

Judge Magistrali reported that the proposed amendment to the Code of Probate Judicial Conduct was approved at the Assembly meeting on January 26, 2022. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the amendment was approved by the Administrator and will be uploaded to the Code of Probate Judicial Conduct on the intranet. Publication of the Code will follow at a later time.

### Legislative

Judge Fox reported that the Committee met last week prior to the start of the short session and no new bills were yet raised that are of concern. The probate ops bill will move forward. No new Committee meetings were set.

### Nominating

No Report

### Planning

No Report

### Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the Committee met on February 7, 2022. The Committee continues to revise forms and are focusing on decrees pursuant to the new areas of jurisdiction under the Parentage Act. The next meeting is March 7, 2022.

Judge Berkenstock also reported that the consensus of the Committee was to not change its name since it would require an amendment to the Bylaws. The Committee revises forms in response to statutory changes and does not change procedures.

### Public Information

No Report

## **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

### Conservator Guidelines

No Report

### Hospitality

No Report

### Court Security

No Report

### Floating Clerks

No Report.

## **5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:**

Judge Streit-Kefalas commented on the following:

- A. New bills have been presented and we should be aware that the DMV is once again seeking to extend the deadline for presenting registrations with beneficiary designations to change car titles from 60 to 120 days which will likely interfere with the estate process. This bill will be monitored.
- B. She is hopeful our budget appropriations will remain the same.
- C. The Supreme Court Justices met on February 8, 2022 and approved the amended Rules of Procedure. The effective date is July 1, 2022. Of note is Rule 66 regarding requests for remote participation in hearings.

- D. PCA is planning the Judges Institute on March 16, 2022 at Quinnipiac University School of Law.
- E. Please encourage all chief clerks to register and attend the annual chief clerks meeting which will be held at the CBA on March 30, 2022.
- F. The state auditors are currently at PCA conducting an audit of the Probate Court system for fiscal years 2020 and 2021. Auditors look at PCA, Court and personnel records.

**6. Comments of the President Judge:**

Judge Brandt commented on his pep talk to the Assembly in January and hoped he did not come across as too preachy. His goal is to provide encouragement to all to serve our constituents well. He recommended judges attend the National Center for State Courts Rapid Pandemic Response Team's webinar scheduled for February 17, 2022 on "Considerations leading up to remote and hybrid hearings" on how to address hybrid and remote hearings.

**7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:**

None

**8. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Judge Darby, seconded by Judge Daly and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham  
Recording Secretary