

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2020

Attendees: Judges Wright, Forgione, Brandt, Randich, Riordan-Gardner, Marino, Jalowiec, Schad, Probate Court Administrator Streit-Kefalas, and Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:58 a.m.
2. **Approval of the Minutes:**
A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2020. Approved.
3. **Correspondence:** None.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** No report.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - Continuing Education
No report.
 - Ethics
No report.
 - Legislative
Judge Streit-Kefalas thanked Judges Forgione, Graves, Norris, Wexler and Brandt and the CAPC co-presidents Idaliz Gomez and Nanci Howard for testifying before the Appropriations Committee about the Governor's proposed budget adjustment. Judge Streit-Kefalas also testified. The proposed adjustment would reduce the appropriation to the probate system from \$12.5 million to \$3.9 million in the next fiscal year.

Judge Streit-Kefalas encouraged all to continue to reach out to educate legislators about the probate system. PCA will be sending out talking points.

Other proposed bills of interest include HB5050, which addresses probate fee liens. PCA will be monitoring all bills and drafts.

Judge Marino raised the issue of why is there a 2 year budget if the governor can change it year to year. Discussion ensued. Judge Streit-Kefalas confirmed that PCA had no advance knowledge of the proposed adjustment.

Judge Jalowiec raised the issue of why the probate budget was discussed separately from the entire judicial budget at the legislative level. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that it is not separate, but that probate judges and clerks are given the courtesy of being allowed to testify specifically to the needs of the probate system.

Nominating

Judge Marino reported that the following slate has been nominated and will be voted on at the annual meeting in April:

President Judge – Honorable Michael Brandt

First President-Judge – Honorable Evelyn Daly

Second President-Judge - Honorable Michael Darby

Executive Secretary – Honorable Leah Schad

Recording Secretary – Honorable Kathleen Maxham

Treasurer – Honorable Michael Magistrali

For the Executive Committee of the Probate Assembly:

Honorable Matthew Jalowiec

Honorable Paul Ganim

Honorable Peter Barrett

Honorable John McGrath, Jr.

For the Budget Committee:

Honorable Philip Wright, Jr.

Planning

No report

Procedures Review

Judge Randich reported that the committee continues to meet.

Court Security

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that Judge Calabrese has sent an email to all courts requesting that they have a security assessment performed by local law enforcement.

Public Information

No report.

Hospitality

No report.

Conservatorship Guidelines

No report.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that eFiling is going very well. There is some frustration among practitioners with the phone support from TurboCourt but that is being addressed. PCA staff, including George, Heather, Dana and Amy, are working hard to support clerks and attorneys. Judges are encouraged to reinforce to clerks to present a positive image of eFiling to practitioners and the public.

The position of legislative liaison is still vacant and the search is ongoing.

- 7. Comments of the President-Judge** – Judge Wright thanked all who were supportive during his recovery from a recent injury. He also thanked Judges Brandt and Marino for coverage in his court and the children’s court.

- 8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee** – There was discussion of eFiling and how it is being implemented in the various courts. Judge Streit-Kefalas reminded all that there have been numerous webinars for clerks and there will be a chief clerks meeting in March to address any issues and to ensure all courts are progressing. She suggested that judges can print out the Document Queue Log to see how timely matters are being handled.

- 9. Adjournment:**
Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Leah Schad
Recording Secretary