



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

April 3, 2024
9:45 a.m.

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

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Berkenstock, Brandt, Ceneviva, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, McGrath, Randich and Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas, Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler and Director of Financial Services, Lisa Hansen.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Darby called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2024, was made by Judge Lewis, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and was unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

Judges Darby and Streit-Kefalas reported no correspondence for the Executive Committee or Assembly.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Judge Randich presented the report for the Third Quarter as disseminated to judges. Judge Gardner Riordan moved, and Judge Brandt seconded a motion to approved the Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Judge Randich also reviewed the proposed annual budget to be presented at the upcoming annual meeting.

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the March 14, 2024 Judges Institute was well received. The next seminar and Assembly meeting is June 26, 2024 and will be held at CCSU. Planned topics are de-escalation techniques to be presented by the Judicial Branch; a presentation from the State Library on archives and probate records; and a panel on probate appeals. The Committee's next meeting is April 24, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the Committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. The next Committee meeting is June 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the PCA Library.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the next committee meeting is on April 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court. The legislative session ends on May 8, 2024. The Judiciary Committee voted on the Probate Court operations bill. It does not include the language to reinstate the name change filing fee. Judge Streit-Kefalas suggested judges visit their representatives and senators after the Annual Meeting next week.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

Judge Anthony reported that members of the Committee met on April 1, 2024 but did not have a quorum. Members are continuing to compile best practice guidance for judges regarding virtual and in-person hearings. The next committee meeting is May 13, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the East Haven-North Haven Probate Court.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock had nothing new to report except for the next meeting on June 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Public Information

The next Committee meeting is on April 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the PCA Library.

Court Security

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Committee is compiling the results of the survey.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. The Supreme Court approved the proposed revision to the Rules. Notice of the changes will be published again and available on July 1, 2024.
- b. Judges should refrain from scheduling hearings on June 10, 2024 to allow attorneys and judges to attend the CBA annual Legal Conference. Some vouchers are available to interested judges.
- c. Lisa Hansen presented the FY 2025 budget proposal. Included in the presentation were PCA initiatives and system challenges.

- d. Any judge with interest in court security should attend the court security meetings,
- e. The biennial report has been released with copies to be forthcoming.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Darby had no prepared comments.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

Several judges spoke of the challenges faced by Heart Media's requirements for publication of notice to creditors. Judge Streit-Kefalas will look into the issue.

8. Adjournment:

Judge Gardner Riordan moved, and Judge Randich seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary