



## CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

### Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

May 10, 2023

9:45 a.m.

#### Office of the Probate Court Administrator

186 Newington Rd.

West Hartford, CT 06110

Attendees: Judges Barrett, Berkenstock, Brandt, Calabrese, Ceneviva, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, McCaffrey, Osterndorf, Randich and also Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas and Chief Counsel Heather Dostaler.

**1. Call to Order:**

Judge Darby called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of April 12, 2023 was made by Judge Gardner Riordan, seconded by Judge McCaffrey and was approved. Judges Brandt, Osterndorf and Lewis abstained.

**3. Correspondence:**

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

**4. Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the last seminar was at UCONN. She reminded the judges that the next seminar and Probate Assembly meeting will be on June 21, 2023 at CCSU main campus. Topics to be covered are Council on Probate Judicial Conduct, Attorney General's Public Charities Unit, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, Court Security and Emergency Preparedness, and Fee Waiver and Compensation Issues. The Committee's next meeting will be on June 28, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the next Committee meeting is June 22, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library.

### Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that there are only a few weeks left in the session. She reported that the Appropriations Committee adopted the Governor's recommended flat funding of our General Fund appropriation, with a proposed suspension of the sweep and approval of the proposed health insurance premium bill. She also reported on some troubling components of other bills that would eliminate filing fees on certain petitions. She urged all judges to contact their local legislators to request support for the Probate Courts.

### Nominating

Judge Darby reported that this Committee will be seeking a new chairperson to replace him since he serves on the Executive Committee.

### Planning

No Report.

### Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the last meeting was March 6 and next meeting is June 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA library.

### Public Information

Judge Brandt reported that the Committee met on May 5 and discussed and recommended methods for the judges to increase public awareness of the Probate Courts. The Committee will provide this information to the new judges.

### Security

Judge Calabrese urged all judges to schedule security assessments for their courts and to let him know if they are scheduled. The committee will be calling judges in the next few weeks to remind them of the recommended assessments. Judge Streit-Kefalas asked judges to call her office if municipalities were not cooperative.

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

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that much of her time has been spent on legislative initiatives as noted earlier. She distributed the Audit Summary from the State Auditors of Public Accounts and noted only 2 findings: strengthen internal controls on mileage reimbursement and controls on purchase cards. She discussed the need for courts to follow the Policy Manual which was adopted and approved largely by the Probate Court Budget Committee because the system is held to the policies in the manual by the state auditors.

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

Judge Darby had no comments in Judge Daly's absence. He did remark that he is still concerned about the lack of individuals willing to act as guardians and conservators. The judges discussed the issue.

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

Judge Calabrese used this time to report on the Court Security Committee as noted above.

**8. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Judge Randich, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and unanimously approved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

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