

CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the
Executive Committee
May 11, 2022

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

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Becker, Berkenstock, Brandt, Darby, Daly, DeGennaro, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Lewis, Magistrali, Maxham, McGrath, Randich, and Wright and also Probate Court Administrator Judge Streit-Kefalas, and Chief Counsel, Heather Dostaler.

1. **Call to Order:**

Judge Daly called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. **Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2022 was made by Judge Magistrali, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan, and unanimously approved.

3. **Correspondence:**

None.

4. **Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

The next Committee meeting will be held on May 17th. Judge Becker reported that the next Assembly seminar is on June 22nd at the Farmington Club.

Ethics

No Report

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the significant legislation of this short session was approval of the budget and fortunately, the general fund appropriation for the Probate Court system was preserved. With passage of the Probate Court operations bill and other bills of interest to the system, it was generally a successful session for the system. She reported that part of the approved budget includes increased compensation for Superior Court judges which will result in an increase for probate judges. PCA will be providing a more comprehensive summary of the legislative session.

Nominating

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No Report

Planning

No Report

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the last Committee meeting was held on May 2nd and they continue to review and revise forms. The Committee is now looking at the Financial Report form.

Public Information

No Report. The Committee will be meeting quarterly going forward.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Conservator Guidelines

Judge DeGennaro reported that the Committee has been repurposed and will be meeting in June to discuss the possibility of creating a conservator training program. Judge Streit-Kefalas reminded judges of the available trainings for conservators available at ctprobate.gov.

Hospitality

Judge DeGennaro and Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Committee is hoping to offer an ice cream social at the June 22nd Assembly meeting depending on the Covid infection rate. The Judges discussed a reception for Judge Yamin at the November NCPJ event in Destin, FL.

Court Security

No Report.

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

Judge Streit-Kefalas remarked that she was pleased with the attendance at the annual meeting.

She reported that the legislative session went well.

More PCA retirements include Audrey Honig, communication assistant, Allison Green (34 years), and Alyce Cariseo's last day will be May 27th. The change in state retirement benefits contributed to many state employees' retirements.

She asked all judges to be aware of the increase in the Covid infection rate.

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6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Daly indicated a few goals for her tenure as President. She commented that after consolidation, the number of judges decreased but responsibilities increased. She hopes to explore more effective ways for judicial coverage in the event of a judge's absence.

Judge Daly wants to explore improving staff benefits. The judges commented on the advantage of approaching new hires by focusing on the employee benefits as well as the hourly rate.

Judge Daly commented that she wishes to explore how we can elevate the perception the public has of our courts.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

8. Adjournment:

Judge Daly adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

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