



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

June 14, 2023

9:45 a.m.

Office of the Probate Court Administrator

186 Newington Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06110

Attendees: Judges Berkenstock, Ceneviva, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, Osterdorf and also Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas and Communications & Inter-Governmental Relations Manager Cindy Wolfe Boynton.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Daly called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of May 10, 2023 was made by Judge Darby, seconded by Judge Hoyle and was unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

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

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that a seminar is scheduled for June 21, 2023 at CCSU in Memorial Hall. The topics to be covered are Security, Council on Probate Judicial Conduct, Public Charities, Fee Waivers and Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The Committee's next meeting will be on June 28, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Ethics

No Report

Legislative

Cindy Wolfe Boynton reported that PCA is preparing a summary of 16 bills that in some way touch Probate Courts. The summary will be shared with judges.

She highlighted a few acts that are of some significance and are effective July 1, 2023: Marriage Act, Budget, Elimination of fees on Name Changes, Probate Ops Bill, Exploitation of Seniors, Indian Child Welfare Act. The judges discussed impacts of these bills.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

No Report.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that meeting scheduled for June 5, 2023 was postponed. The next meeting is September 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA library.

Public Information

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the next meeting is October 5, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in the PCA Library.

Security

No Report.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas explained that the Legislature and Governor did not approve our Budget as presented but approved the elimination of the sweep on June 30, 2023 from which there will be sufficient funds to cover the requested amount for FY24. Year 2 of the Budget was approved as requested. In addition to judicial compensation adjustments, the proposed budget includes the 3% merit compensation adjustments for July 2023 and proposed cost of living and compression adjustments for January 2024. If revenue continues to be favorable, these items will be presented to the Probate Court Budget Committee for review at the December 2023 Budget Committee meeting.

She reported on the successful passage of the health insurance parity statutory change that will amend CGS section 5-259(g) to reduce health insurance premiums share for probate employees and judges from 50% to 30% for the +1 and family plans. A chart of the savings has already been sent to staff and judges.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reviewed several of the other bills with passage dates of July 1, 2023. She asked all judges to thank their legislators for their outstanding support this session.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Daly raised a few issues for discussion by the members:

She sought input on assistance for judges as a result of the cumulative effect of dealing with depressing issues. Judge Streit-Kefalas commented that third party bystander trauma is a real issue. Judge Lewis shared that her staff enjoys HEP videos on various wellness topics they view on some Fridays during lunch.

Judge Daly inquired if the Ethics Committee would consider reviewing ground rules on judicial recusals.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

Judge Darby inquired about the procedures for payment required by local newspapers for publication of notice to creditors. His local paper now requires payment before publication. The judges shared their local requirements.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary