



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the
Executive Committee
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

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

MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order:

Due to the continued public health emergency, the meeting was held in person and remotely via Cisco Webex video conferencing and was called to order at 9:48 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Judge Darby seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and carried to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of September 8, 2021 as presented. Judge Barrett abstained.

3. Correspondence:

Judge Brandt reported that he had received no correspondence. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported she also had not received any correspondence.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Judge Randich reviewed the first Quarter Budget Report covering the period from July 1 through September 30, 2021. No expenses were reported. A motion was made by Judge DeGennaro, seconded by Judge Darby and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

5. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Brandt reported that the Committee met yesterday, and the next webinar is

tomorrow covering the legislative update. There is a Judges Institute on October 26, 2021 and the Clerks Roundtables are ongoing. Ethics will be covered in the joint bar-bench webinar on November 16, 2021 as well as in January 2022.

Judge Becker reported that the March 2022 seminar will be on mediation at Quinnipiac University Law School. The Committee has provided approximately 40 hours of continuing education this year. Judges discussed the requirement that clerks, and judges must attend the roundtable webinars via video. PCA has sent plug and play video web cameras to the courts to supplement existing camera-enabled monitors.

Ethics

Judge Magistrali indicated he had nothing new to report. The Committee will be meeting later today at 4:00 p.m. The judges discussed different ethics topics to be included going forward including complaints against judges, campaign ethics, and diversity.

Legislative

Judge Fox reported that the PCA sent out the 2021 Legislative Summary. The upcoming legislative session will be the short session in 2022 which runs from the first week in February to the first week in May. The session generally covers budget related adjustments and related items. A committee meeting will be scheduled in December. Please send along legislative ideas to the committee.

Nominating

Judge McGrath indicated he has nothing to report.

Planning

Judge Anthony indicated he has nothing to report.

Procedures Review

On behalf of Judge Berkenstock, Heather Dostaler reported that the next meeting is November 1, 2021 and forms are continuing to be reviewed and updated.

Public Information

No Report

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Conservator Guidelines

No Report

Hospitality

No Report

Court Security

No Report

Floating Clerks

No Report.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas delivered several updates to the Executive Committee:

- a. State agency eFiling rollout is continuing. The DDS West Region is now fully participating and will be followed by the remainder of the state by mid-November. The next agency is DAS. Thus far the expansion has been successful.
- b. The 2021 Legislative Summary has been posted on the intranet. Tomorrow will be a webinar on the public acts effecting the probate courts. The Notice of Public Hearing was published for the proposed revisions to the Probate Court Rules of Procedure. The public hearing on the proposed revisions is November 17, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Supreme Court. The subcommittee chairs will conduct the public hearing. The Supreme Court justices will receive the rules for final approval after the public hearing.
- c. Jim Polites has been hired as the new Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Manager. He has extensive experience with legislation having formerly been advisor to the Speaker of the House, James Amann. He will start at PCA on October 22, 2021.
- d. CT Bar Foundation is working with various stakeholders including PCA and CT Legal Rights Project on a series of events in a symposium format on conservatorships. The events will run through next year. There will be a kickoff event with a nationally known speaker. We will keep the Assembly posted.
- e. Judge Streit-Kefalas has been in conversations with U.S. Senator Blumenthal's office on the topic of conservatorships. There is a spotlight on conservatorships nationally and there will be continuing attention to the issue.
- f. Regarding the camera requirement for the Roundtables, Judge Streit-Kefalas noted that almost 40 hours of continuing education has been offered to judges and court staff that did not require video participation. Roundtables are a unique informal format and video participation is a required component. Additional webcams are being sent to all courts to help address the issue.
- g. The CT Chapter of the NAACP is having a gala at Foxwoods this weekend. Judge Graves and Chief Justice Robinson will be honored, among many other key and influential black leaders in the state.

7. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Brandt expressed his appreciation to PCA for putting together the webinars. He acknowledged the significant amount of work each webinar entails. Judge Brandt will put together a calendar of upcoming Executive Committee meetings. The next two are set for November 10, 2021, and December 8, 2021.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

9. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Judge Wright, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham
Recording Secretary