

# CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

## Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

November 9, 2022

9:45 a.m.

### Office of the Probate Court Administrator

186 Newington Rd.

West Hartford, CT 06110

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Berkenstock, Brandt, Daly, Darby, DeGennaro, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Lewis, Magistrali, Maxham, Randich, 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 9:52 a.m.

#### 2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2022 meeting was made by Judge Magistrali, seconded by Judge Darby, and unanimously approved.

#### 3. Correspondence:

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

#### 4. Treasurer's Report:

Judge Randich reviewed the financial reports distributed with the agenda. A motion was made by Judge Darby, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan to approve the reports. During discussion Judge Magistrali pointed out a spelling error in the word "sundae" on the Q1 expense sheet. Judge Darby moved to amend his motion to include a correction of the spelling error, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan. The amendment, being deemed a friendly amendment, and the motion were voted on together and unanimously approved.

#### 5. Committee Reports:

##### Continuing Education

Judge Brandt reported that educational seminars are planned for the balance of this year. Judge DeGennaro reported that the next seminar is on November 30<sup>th</sup> and the first program in 2023 will be on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The seminars will take place at the Courtyard by Marriot in Cromwell. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the newly elected judges will begin their education on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> and they are invited to attend both upcoming seminars.

##### Ethics

No Report

### Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Committee met on October 28, 2022 in the Trumbull Probate Court. The Committee reviewed concepts for the probate operations bill and proposed legislation by other groups. Amongst other potential legislation, the Committee will be monitoring bar association proposals that may include remote notarization. Not all bar sections are in agreement with the proposal so it is unclear if it will go forward this legislative session.

### Nominating

No Report

### Planning

Judge Anthony reported that he is meeting with PCA to discuss proposals for the Committee.

### Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the next meeting will be December 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Public Information

No Report

## **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

### Conservator Guidelines

No Report.

### Hospitality

No Report.

### Court Security

No Report

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

Judge Streit-Kefalas shared the following unofficial election results of 14 new judges:

- Berlin: William Rivera
- Branford-North Branford: Charles Tiernan
- Danbury: Joseph DaSilva
- East Hartford, Richard P. Gentile
- Greater Windsor: Mary Deneed
- Litchfield Hills: Jordan Richards
- Naugatuck: Rosa Rebimbas
- New Haven: Americo Carchia
- Northeast: Gabrielle Labonte
- Northern Fairfield: Steven DeMoura
- Simsbury: David Shepard
- Tobacco Valley: Daniel Mara
- Torrington, James Steck
- Wallingford, Patrick Birney

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that PCA is fully staffed with some shifting of duties in the Financial Services Department.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reminded the judges of the NCPJ conference starting on Tuesday, November 15 in Destin, FL. Judge Yamin will be installed as President of the College.

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

Judge Daly wished all congratulations on reelection and noted that retirement of several judges is bittersweet.

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

Judge Darby asked for input from the judges on the difficulty he is experiencing in finding suitable guardians for adults with intellectual disability who have no relatives or others willing to serve. There is no statutory provision nor available funding to compensate non-family members acting as guardians.

There was discussion about possible future legislation and the funding demands and challenges that would be involved as well as increased outreach and education with local organizations to encourage individuals willing to serve as guardians.

Judges Jalowiec and DeGennaro commented that they appreciated the new hybrid Webex system. A discussion followed on in-person and virtual hearings.

Judge DeGennaro reported two issues from the recent Judges Association meeting:

- a. Request to eliminate Band 1 of the judge's compensation
- b. Juneteenth as a paid holiday.

Judge Streit-Kefalas indicated that the Budget Committee's agenda for its December 14 meeting will include addressing Juneteenth as a paid holiday. Last year it was included on the holiday selection form as one of the holidays that could be selected for the courts' 12 paid holidays.

Judge Jalowiec commented on his experience with the family specialist's role in voluntary removal of guardians in parental rights matters. The judges discussed various issues and solutions in connection with the situation.

**8. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Judge Magistrali, seconded by Judge Brandt, and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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