

CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

December 12, 2022

9:45 a.m.

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

Attendees: Judges Berkenstock, Daly, Darby, DeGennaro, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Lewis, Magistrali, Marino, 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 9:54 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2022 was made by Judge DeGennaro, seconded by Judge Marino, and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

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

4. Report of the Chair, Nominating Committee

Judge Marino as chair of the committee presented the following nominations to fill current and upcoming vacancies for officers and members of the Executive Committee, and other elected positions:

OFFICERS:

(See bylaws article 4(b))

- Second Vice President Judge
- Executive Secretary

HONORABLE PETER BARRETT (until 04/19/2023)
HONORABLE ARIANA F. CENEVIVA (until 4/19/2023)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

(See bylaws, article 5(b))

- New Haven
- At Large
- Litchfield

HONORABLE CLIFFORD P. HOYLE (to 04/2025)
HONORABLE CAROLYN L. MCCAFFREY (to 04/2025)
HONORABLE DOMENICK N. CALABRESE (to 04/2024)

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

HONORABLE MICHAEL R. BRANDT (to 04/2024)

COUNCIL ON PROBATE JUDICIAL CONDUCT:

HONORABLE ELISA H. BARTLETT (to 09/30/2025)
HONORABLE JOSEPH D. MARINO (*Alternate*)
(to 9/30/2025)

Judge Streit-Kefalas explained that pursuant to the Bylaws, vacancies in the officer positions may be filled by the Executive Committee to serve until the next election set for the annual meeting in April 2023. Other vacancies are to be filled to complete the unexpired term of the vacating judge. She recommended that the positions be filled effectively on January 4, 2023 when retiring judges leave the Assembly. A motion to approve the nominations as presented was made by Judge Darby and seconded by Judge DeGennaro. After discussion on the county representatives, the motion carried by majority vote. Judge Magistrali opposed the motion.

For informational purposes, Judge Marino shared the proposed slate for the annual meeting to be presented at the January 26, 2023 meeting of the Probate Assembly:

OFFICERS:

Term: 2023-2024

- President-Judge
- First Vice President-Judge
- Second Vice President-Judge
- Executive Secretary
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer

HONORABLE EVELYN M. DALY
HONORABLE MICHAEL M. DARBY
HONORABLE PETER C. BARRETT
HONORABLE ARIANA F. CENEVIVA
HONORABLE KATHLEEN N. MAXHAM
HONORABLE ROBERT A. RANDICH

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Term: 04/2023- 04/2026

- Hartford
- Fairfield
- Windham

HONORABLE MATTHEW J. JALOWIEC
HONORABLE WILLIAM P. OSTERNDORF
HONORABLE JOHN J. MCGRATH, JR.

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Term: 04/2023-04/2025

HONORABLE FRED J. ANTHONY

5. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the next Judges Institute is December 19, 2022 in Cromwell at the Courtyard by Marriott on the topic of evidence. The next Committee meeting will be in February, 2023.

Ethics

Judge Magistrali had no report but indicated that this was his last meeting and the Committee needs a new chair. He offered the President-Judge his suggestions.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the next Committee meeting is February 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court. The state budget is the significant issue for the probate system this session. The probate ops bill is being drafted. The session starts on January 4, 2023.

Planning

No Report.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the Committee met on December 5, 2022 and continues to revise and update forms. The Committee will be meeting quarterly going forward and the next meeting is March 6, 2023.

Public Information

No Report

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reminded the members of the upcoming 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook school shooting.

She expressed her appreciation for Judges Schad and Becker who served as officers and chairs on the Executive Committee and were not returning. She also expressed appreciation for the retiring members of the Executive Committee, Judges Magistrali, Blick and Wright who have all served in a variety of roles over many years.

Judge Streit-Kefalas asked members to reach out to new judges to encourage them to be active members of the Assembly.

She wished all a happy and healthy holiday season.

7. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Daly echoed the sentiments of Judge Streit-Kefalas as to all the departing judges who will be missed. She wished all a happy and healthy holiday season.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

Judge Darby raised the recent decision of the Council on Probate Judicial Conduct for discussion and guidance. The judges discussed the need for additional education in this area and the impact or interpretation of this recent decision by the Council. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Council will be presenting at the June 2023 Assembly seminar including guidance and recommendations for judges.

Retiring Judges Magistrali and Wright expressed thanks to the members and indicated that participating on the Executive Committee was very rewarding.

9. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Judge Darby, seconded by Judge Wright and unanimously approved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

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