

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

## March 11, 2020

Attendees: Judges Wright, Brandt, Gardner Riordan, Blick, Magistrali, Calabrese, Darby, DeGennaro, Barrett, Daly, Schad, Probate Court Administrator Streit-Kefalas, and Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:50 a.m.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes:**  
A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February 13, 2020. Approved.
- 3. Correspondence:** None.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** The March budget report was presented by Judge Magistrali. Approved.

**5. Committee Reports:**  
Continuing Education

Judge Brandt reminded all of the Judges Institute set for March 18.

Ethics

Judge Magistrali reported that the last revision of the *Code of Probate Judicial Conduct* was in 2016. In accordance with the statutes, the committee needs to review the ethics provisions. He also plans to solicit all the judges for issues that need to be addressed.

Legislative

No report.

Nominating

No report.

Planning

No report.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported via email that the last meeting was on February 3, 2020. The committee reviewed and revised various forms for rule changes. The next meeting is April 6.

Court Security

Judge Calabrese reported that there will be active shooter training at the June continuing education meeting. An email was sent to all judges and chief clerks requesting that they arrange for a new security assessment of their courts.

Public Information

Judge Blick reported that the committee has designed a brochure that will be distributed at the annual meeting and that the presentation panels are being updated.

Hospitality

No report.

Conservatorship Guidelines

No report.

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

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on recent legislative items. The public hearings on the probate operations bill have been rescheduled due to temporary closure of the legislative building. The Connecticut Parentage Act is moving forward.

The Judicial Operations bill proposes a change to how probate rule changes are adopted. Instead of Supreme Court judges holding the public hearing on rule changes, probate judges would preside over the hearings.

The Act to Strengthen the Probate System bill proposes to allow probate employees to collectively bargain. Judge Streit-Kefalas testified at the public hearing as to her concerns over the consequences both to individual courts and fiscally. The bill was passed out of committee.

The Judges Institute is still scheduled for next week but PCA will provide updates if that changes.

Judge Streit-Kefalas has emailed the Bench Guide on Isolation and Quarantine Law as well as a guidance on probate procedures and forms regarding an appeal of an isolation or quarantine order appeal. She reported that as of today, 56 Connecticut residents have been tested and 2 were positive for COVID-9. PCA will continue to work on Continuity of Operations Plans for the probate system.

The Department of Health issued a directive to all Connecticut nursing homes prohibiting visitors. This presents an issue as to conservatorship applications and ongoing conservatorships. PCA is anticipating revised guidelines addressing these concerns. There was discussion over already scheduled nursing home hearings.

The governor has command calls three times a week addressing COVID-19 and PCA participates in these calls. There has been no guidance from the state yet as to hearings in hospitals and psychiatric facilities. There was discussion over new procedures. It was suggested that courts could request all individuals coming into the courts to sign in.

Finally, as to the budget, there will be a financial impact from the COVID-19 outbreak. PCA will continue to monitor the legislature.

**7. Comments of the President-Judge – No comments.**

**8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee –**

Judge Streit-Kefalas introduced the new legislative liaison Melissa Riley.

**9. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hon. Leah Schad  
Recording Secretary