

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2019

Attendees: Judges Wright, Riordan, Randich, Berkenstock, DeGennaro, Brandt, Becker, Barrett, Mahon, Jalowiec, Daly, Brandt, Calabrese, Blick, Schad, Streit-Kefalas, Probate Court Administrator Knierim and Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:49 a.m.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes:**
The minutes from the February 13, 2019 meeting were approved.
- 3. Correspondence:** None.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** None.
- 5. Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

No report.

Ethics

No report.

Legislative

Judge Knierim reported that he has communicated to all judges and staff information concerning the governor's proposed budget. The governor has proposed flat funding for the probate system. Judge Knierim as well as other judges testified before the Appropriations Committee.

There are two other issues with the proposed budget: a change to the filing date of the estate tax return and repeal of the gift tax. If both of these measures were implemented without an increase in funding, the probate system's fund will have a negative balance during FY2020. Judge Knierim continues to try to schedule a meeting with OPM to discuss the proposed budget.

At the hearing on the Probate Court Operations bill, a legislator raised the issue of adding minor children to those who have standing in custody of the remains matters. There was discussion concerning the proposal, whether minors should have standing and at what age and if the judge should have discretion. The consensus is that amending the statute would undermine the clarity of the current statute and lead to more contested causes.

A bill has been raised by DSS concerning paternity, clarifying the law to permit courts to open judgments of paternity. The Committee agreed that we should seek an amendment enabling Probate Courts to open judgment on voluntary acknowledgements of paternity.

Nominating

No report.

Planning

No report.

Procedures Review

No report.

Public Information

Judge Blick reported that the committee is working on creating a brochure about the probate system for judges to distribute.

Hospitality

The next NCPJ meeting is in New Orleans from May 14-17.

Conservatorship Guidelines

No report.

Floating Clerks

No report

Statistics

No report.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator

Judge Knierim proposed that the Daniel F. Caruso Public Service Award presented at the Annual meeting be given to Vin Russo, all agreed.

Court Call technology allows courts to use video conferencing for hearings. It is currently set up in four courts and used mostly in the New London court. Judge Knierim will invite Judges Greene, Ganim and Calabrese to speak at an upcoming meeting on their use of the system.

There was a discussion on the presentation at the Judge's Institute on medical evidence at conservatorship/commitment hearings. A suggestion was made to provide the same training to staff.

7. Comments of the President-Judge

Judge Wright welcomed Judge Barrett to the Executive Committee.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee

None.

9. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Leah Schad
Recording Secretary