

**CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2021**

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

1. Call to Order:

Due to the continued public health emergency, the meeting, conducted by Judge Daly, was held in person and remotely via Cisco Webex video conferencing and was called to order at 9:47 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Judge Barrett, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and unanimously carried to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of June 9, 2021 as presented.

3. Correspondence:

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

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Becker reported that the next Committee meeting is July 20, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. She indicated that a save the date notice had been sent out for the first in-person seminar to be held September 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at the Farmington Club. A hospitality event is scheduled for the attendees after the seminar and Probate Assembly meeting. The Judges' Institute is planned for October 26, 2021 and the joint Bench/Bar program is set for November 16, 2021. The Connecticut Parentage Act will be discussed at these educational programs.

Ethics

No Report

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Governor has vetoed SB940 – An Act Concerning State Agency Compliance With Probate Court Orders. This bill has been opposed by DSS for many years and the legislature is unlikely override the veto.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

No Report

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the Committee met on July 12, 2021 and revised many of the parental rights forms based on requirements of the CT Parentage Act and legislation that expanded access to original birth certificates for adult adoptees. The next meeting will be on September 13, 2021.

Public Information

No Report

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Conservator Guidelines

Judge DeGennaro had no report but indicated that the committee may become active after the bench/bar seminar in November.

Court Security

No Report

Floating Clerks

No Report

Hospitality

Judge DeGennaro reported that a reception is planned for judges and clerks after the September assembly meeting and seminar.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas commented that it has been a hectic summer so far. She reported that most town halls are open to the public and the courts are as well. The Rules Committee is reviewing the best way to modify Rule 66 to allow for the importance of in-person hearings with the learned benefits of remote video proceedings.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that she attended the in-person CAPC meeting recently held along with a few other judges. She encouraged all judges to attend future clerks meetings as a great way to hear directly from the court staff.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that all other bills related to the probate system have been signed and are now public acts. Aside from our own "ops" bill, the CT Parentage Act is the most significant and comprehensive. The Continuing Education Committee is working on commitments for excellent speakers to help judges understand the bill.

On behalf of Judge Calabrese, Judge Streit-Kefalas urged all judges to have their municipalities complete a security assessment and submit the report to Melissa Riley at PCA.

She reported that she had just completed a podcast about conservatorships for Calendar Call, a continuing education program provided by the Judicial ranch. She commented that

conservatorships are in the news because of the publicity surrounding Britney Spears. She advised judges to not comment on that case if approached but instead to share that Connecticut conservatorship protections are vastly different than other states.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that personnel merit pay adjustments have been completed. The judges discussed the breakdown of the compensation adjustments.

She also discussed the logistics and requirements of in-person hearings as a result of the sunset of Executive Order 12B.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Daly had no comments from Judge Brandt.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

8. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Judge Anthony and seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham
Recording Secretary