



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

REGULAR MEETING November 30, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Judge Daly at 12:25 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Judge Jalowiec led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of the Judges

Thirty-five judges were present at Courtyard by Marriott-Cromwell for the meeting. In addition, Probate Court Administrator Judge Streit-Kefalas, Attorneys Heather Dostaler, Evan Brunetti and Eric Rothauer and 14 judges-elect also attended.

3. Approval of the September 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Judge Wright and seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan to approve the minutes for the last Assembly meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

Judge Randich reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the first quarter of the 2023 fiscal year. He noted 2 expenses for previous seminars. Judge Magistrali moved to approve the report and Judge DeGennaro seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Committee Reports

National College of Probate Judges (NCPJ)

The President Judge yielded the floor to Judge Yamin, the recently installed President of NCPJ, to explain the origin and purpose of the college. After a brief history, Judge Yamin encouraged all judges - new and old - to become active members. Dues for membership are paid by PCA for active, sitting judges. As President, her goals are to increase membership, partner with other associations, and work with bar associations across the country. The next conference is in Tucson, AZ in May 2023.

Continuing Education

Judge Brandt reported that the committee was scheduled to meet after the seminar on December 19, 2022. That seminar will be a primer on evidence. The first seminar in 2023 will be on January 26, 2023 on implicit bias, DDS services, and contested cases.

Ethics

Judge Magistrali indicated he had no formal report but welcomed all judges and explained the role of the Committee and encouraged judges to join.

Legislative

Judge Fox reported that the Committee met on October 28, 2022 in the Trumbull Probate Court. The Committee discussed issues to be included in the Probate operations bill for the upcoming legislative session that begins in January 2023. There will be a follow up meeting on February 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court. He reminded all judges to submit any proposed legislation to PCA or the Committee chairs soon.

Nominating

No Report.

Planning Committee

Judge Anthony congratulated all newly elected judges and described the purpose of the Planning Committee. He indicated that the Committee will likely have a more proactive stance in the post COVID period. The Committee will be meeting in January 2023.

Procedures Review Committee

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the next meeting is December 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA library. Any suggested form changes may be submitted to Judge Berkenstock or Attorney Eric Rothouser.

Public Information

No Report

Conservatorship Guidelines

No Report.

Court Security

Judge Calabrese reported that committee members are currently calling courts to remind them to conduct a security assessment and submit the report to him or Jim Polites. He reminded all present of the importance of the assessment. He requested additional volunteers for the committee.

Hospitality

No Report.

6. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator

Judge Streit-Kefalas commented on the following:

- a. Congratulations to Judge Yamin on being installed as the President of NCPJ. It is an honor for her and the Assembly. One of the presentations at the conference was by Justice John Browning on social media ethical pitfalls. His presentation materials will be shared with his permission.
- b. Judges would benefit from signing up and receiving the newsletters from the National College of State Courts. The newsletters discuss important national issues as well as ethics opinions.
- c. Congratulations to the following newly elected judges who are embedded in training. All judges are encouraged to reach out and be a resource to all of them:

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

7. Remarks of the President-Judge

Judge Daly welcomed all newly elected judges and current judges. She echoed the words of Judge Streit-Kefalas in congratulating Judge Yamin on her installation as President. Judge Daly indicated that she will be looking to recruit new and seasoned judges to fill vacancies on our Committees.

8. Any business to come before the Assembly

None.

9. Adjourn

Judge Jalowiec made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and unanimously carried to adjourn at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham
Recording Secretary