

# CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETING

## April 23, 2020

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Judge Wright at 11:05 a.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Judge Brandt.

2. **Roll call of the Judges**

Thirty-three judges were present by telephone for the meeting.

3. **Approval of the January 16, 2020 Probate Assembly Meeting Minutes**

Approved

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

On behalf of Treasurer Judge Michael Magistrali, Judge Wright presented the reports for January-March, 2020. Treasurer's reports approved. Judge Wright also presented the proposed annual budget for FY21. Budget was approved.

5. **Committee Reports:**

### **Legislative**

Judge Rowe reported that the 2020 legislative session has been adjourned. The governor's proposed revision to the probate budget will not take affect and the budget as passed last year stands. The probate court operations bill will not be considered this term.

Judge Fox reported that he and Judge Rowe have maintained contact with legislators. The state will have a budget problem in light of the financial impact from COVID-19, but he believes the probate system has significant support from legislators.

Judge Rowe encouraged all to be vocal to the public that all of the probate courts are open and working.

### **Court Security**

Judge Calabrese reported that the committee will be meeting next month. He encourages all courts to have an updated security assessment done by local law enforcement.

### **Procedures Review**

Judge Berkenstock reported that the committee continues to meet and thanked the members of the committee for their hard work.

6. **Elections**

Judge Marino presented the slate of candidates for the 2020-2021 term:

Officers:

President-Judge	Honorable Michael R. Brandt
First Vice President-Judge	Honorable Evelyn M. Daly
Second Vice President-Judge	Honorable Michael M. Darby
Executive Secretary	Honorable Leah P. Schad
Recording Secretary	Honorable Kathleen N. Maxham
Treasurer	Honorable Michael F. Magistrali

For the 2020-2023 Term of the Executive Committee:  
Hartford County – Honorable Matthew J. Jalowiec  
Fairfield County – Honorable Paul J. Ganim  
New Haven County – Honorable Peter C. Barrett  
Windham County – Honorable John J. McGrath, Jr.

For the 2020-2022 Term of the Probate Court Budget Committee:  
Honorable Philip A. Wright, Jr.

The slate was approved as presented.

**7. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator**

Judge Streit-Kefalas requested that all judges take a selfie and send it to Melissa Riley for a record of this unique annual meeting.

Judge Streit-Kefalas acknowledged the impact that the pandemic has had on our system and the world. It has been a challenging year between the many personnel changes at PCA, the budget issues and now with COVID-19. She recognized the contributions of all who have left PCA in the last year and welcomed the new staff members including Lisa Hanson, Melissa Riley and Michelle DiDonato. Judge Streit-Kefalas noted the positive advances made in the past year, including eFiling and eBilling. She thanked the staff at PCA for continuing to provide support to the courts during these trying times. She noted that there has been a significant decline in revenue in the past weeks because of COVID-19 and that the budgetary impact will have to be addressed in the near future.

Judge Streit-Kefalas urged all to continue to socially distance at work and in their personal lives. She expressed her gratitude to all the judges and staff for continuing the business of the courts in these trying times and for their professionalism, dedication and expertise.

Judge Streit-Kefalas thanked Judge Wright for his service as President-Judge and welcomed him to the Budget Committee. She congratulated Judge Brandt on his election.

**8. Remarks of the Outgoing President-Judge**

Judge Wright thanked the entire assembly for allowing him to serve as President-Judge. He recognized all the personnel changes at PCA and commended all on successfully carrying on through the many transitions. Judge Wright thanked the PCA staff and Judge Streit-Kefalas. He wished all good luck.

**9. Remarks of Incoming President-Judge**

Judge Brandt recognized the changes that have happened to the probate system in his 18 years as a judge and the leadership of past president judges. He looks forward to working with the newly elected officers and all of the judges in the coming year to accomplish the goals of the assembly.

Judge Brandt recognized the hard work of the clerks of the courts and the staff at PCA. He is proud to have the opportunity to serve the judges, staff and the public in his role as president judge.

**10. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee**

No other business

**11. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:41a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Leah Schad

Recording Secretary