

**Regular Meeting of the  
Probate Court Budget Committee  
Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021  
4:00 p.m.**

**Office of the Probate Court Administrator  
186 Newington Road  
West Hartford, CT 06110**

The meeting was called to order by Judge Streit-Kefalas at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted in-person and by telephone conference.

**Present**

Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas, Probate Court Administrator and Chair, Judge Fred Anthony, and Judge Philip Wright, Jr. Also present: Lisa Hansen, Director of Financial Services, and Jim Polites, Manager of Communications and Intergovernmental Relations.

**Public Comment and Correspondence**

Judge Streit-Kefalas inquired for public comment by roll call to each Probate District. There was correspondence from Judge Berkenstock (PD-14) and Judge Wright addressed to the Committee. Pat Chase (PD-41) offered comment on business before the Committee.

**Remarks by the Chair**

Judge Streit-Kefalas remarked that the State of Connecticut continues to report a budget surplus, with current trends projected to continue in the near term. During the 2021 legislative session, the General Assembly passed a two-year budget for FY22 and FY23 which included approval of the Probate Court request for General Fund (GF) appropriation. Given the budget surplus, the current Probate Court GF appropriation, and stabilization of Probate fees (which account for 75% of system revenue) following the challenges of the pandemic, Judge Streit-Kefalas remains cautiously optimistic, and recommends favorable action on today's business before the Committee.

**Compensation Plan Adjustment**

In continued recognition of the dedicated work of Probate Court staff and in accordance with Probate Court Assembly Policy 101, *Staff Compensation Adjustments*, Judge Streit-Kefalas asked for a motion for approval of a 3.0% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), to be implemented beginning January 2022. Combined with merit increases approved by the Budget Committee at its June 16, 2021 meeting, Judge Streit-Kefalas said this would result in a total annual compensation adjustment in Fiscal Year End 06/30/2022 of 6.0% for eligible Probate Court employees.



Judge Streit-Kefalas remarked that given the increase in CCRCPC participating courts and cases, the proposed staffing adjustment is merited.

Judge Streit-Kefalas called for a vote. The motion to approve by Judge Anthony, seconded by Judge Streit-Kefalas, carried with abstention by Judge Wright.

**Other Business**

None

**Set 2023 Meeting Schedule**

Judge Streit-Kefalas, Judge Anthony, and Judge Wright agreed that the next Budget Committee meetings will take place on March 16, 2022, June 8, 2022, and December 14, 2022.

**Adjournment**

Judge Streit-Kefalas requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Judge Wright and seconded by Judge Anthony. The motion carried unanimously, no abstentions.

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.