

Statistics Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2016

Office of the Probate Court Administrator
186 Newington Avenue
West Hartford, CT

Meeting convened at 9:35 a.m. by Judge Andre D. Dorval, Chair

Other members in attendance: Attorney Bonnie Bennet, Attorney Evan Brunetti, Judge Evelyn M. Daly, Judge John J. McGrath, Jr., Judge O. James Purnell, III, Judge Andrea Truppa and Judge Philip A. Wright, Jr.

Also in attendance: Judge Paul J. Knierim, Probate Court Administrator

Members not in attendance: Judge Scott R. Chadwick, Judge Michael M. Darby, Judge John A. Keyes and Ms. Sondra Waterman

Welcoming Remarks

Judge Dorval welcomed members to the first meeting and thanked them for volunteering to serve on the committee.

Discussion of Goals and Objectives

Judge Dorval asked Paul Knierim to provide some history and outline the goals and objectives for this new ad hoc Probate Assembly committee.

Judge Knierim stated that the mission was two-fold. A primary objective is to ensure an accurate measure of the work of the Probate Courts that is judicial in nature for policy makers and the public. These statistics should be useful in identifying trends and help secure funding for the probate system. The second objective of the committee is to develop a substitute for the current weighted workload measure, which is used primarily to ensure fair judicial compensation. The goal is to measure the work of the court that involves either judicial determination or court oversight. These statistics will need to reflect the work of both judge and clerk and will be instrumental in allocating the available resources, particularly in determining staffing. The repeal of weighted workload as a measure of judicial compensation is a pre-condition to a new regulation that looks at the totality of the judicial activities of the court.

Business

The members of the committee began by discussing ways to accomplish the two goals – a statistical measure of the work of the court for both public and internal purposes. Members discussed the complexities of measuring clerks' time in judicial determination and oversight activities and how to reflect this time in court statistics. After much discussion, the members decided to begin by reviewing the current activities on the Tally Rules documents, recognizing the possibility of adding new activities or documents received that are not related to an activity, modifying the scale of 1-5, and/or eliminating activities from the list. The allocation of credit for courts participating in the regional children's probate courts was also discussed.

The committee will begin its deliberation with a review of activities to determine those that are worthy of inclusion in statistics for public dissemination. The focus will be activities that involve a judicial determination or judicial oversight.

The committee will meet on the second Friday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to noon for the coming year. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 13, 2017 at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator.

Judge McGrath volunteered to serve as secretary at future meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.