

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 16, 2017

Attendees: Judges Mahon, Keeney, Marino, Darby, Greene, Elkin, Streit-Kefalas, Randich, Calabrese (via telephone), Ganim (via telephone), Probate Court Administrator Paul Knierim, Attorney Tom Gaffey.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:55. A quorum was reached at 10:00.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting were approved with one abstention.
3. **Correspondence:** None.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Acceptance of report held.
5. **Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education: Judge Elkin noted the following upcoming programs:

- September 20 Probate Assembly
- October 19 Judges Institute
- November 29 Joint Probate Assembly / CBA program

Ethics: No report.

Legislative: Judge Mahon indicating nothing new to report with the ongoing budget process. Judge Knierim noted that the Executive Order provides us with funding of \$4.5 million.

Judge Mahon noted that the judges have received a pay increase. However, that may be rescinded, and there is the possibility that judges may have to repay the amount of any increase received.

Nominating: No report. Judge Marino indicated that the committee will be looking to fill three upcoming openings on the Executive Committee.

Procedures Review: No report.

Public Information: No report.

Planning: Judge Keeney gave a report of the discussion at the last meeting, which included education of legislators, expansion of duties and expansion of jurisdiction.

6. **Comments of the Probate Court Administrator**

Judge Knierim provided an overview of proposed changes in the regulations concerning the compensation of attorneys, physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists, as well as mediation. The committee was generally supportive of the proposed changes, however, there was consensus that the compensation for attorneys is too low and should be addressed when budget conditions permit.

Judge Knierim observed that with the expansion of the contract conservator program, it now covers one-half of indigent cases.

He also reported that courts have increasingly reported problems with banks refusing to accept Probate Court decrees. He is working with the bankers' association in an effort to resolve these problems.

Judge Knierim also brought to the committee's attention Court Call, a private service that would enable parties to participate in hearings by video conferencing. The party would pay the cost, with Court Call setting the court up with the necessary equipment. There would be no cost to the court. After discussion it was agreed that this warrants further consideration.

7. **Comments of the President-Judge**

Judge Mahon had no further comments.

8. **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney Thomas E. Gaffey