

CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETING

June 22, 2017

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Judge Mahon at 12:20 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Judge Blick.
3. **Approval of the April 26, 2017 Probate Assembly Meeting Minutes**
Approved
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
Treasurer's report approved.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - Continuing Education – Judge Becker
On September 20, 2017, there will be a training on children's matters. The next Judges Institute will be held on October 19, 2017 and will cover several topics including new legislation. On November 29, 2017, there will be a joint CBA/Probate meeting.
 - Ethics – Judge Magistrali
No report.
 - Legislative – Judges Fox and Rowe
Judge Rowe reported that the regular session has ended without a budget being passed. Both parties have a caucus scheduled for next week to continue budget discussions.
Judge Rowe also reported on the status of the probate related bills after the legislature adjourned. The Probate Court Operations bill passed and the Conservator Accounting bill passed. The Conservator bill establishes standards for conservators and requires random audits of conservator accounts by PCA. He commended Vin Russo on his tireless efforts on behalf of the probate system.
 - Nominating – Judge Marino
No report.
 - Planning – Judge Brandt
No report. Judge Brandt reminded the Assembly of the Judges Association Planning Committee meeting on July 14, 2017 in East Haven.
 - Procedures Review – Judge Berkenstock
No report.
 - Public Information – Judge Purnell
No report.
 - Statistics – Judge Dorval
The committee is continuing to meet monthly.
 - Hospitality – Judge Yamin
The next NCPJ conference will be held November 15-18 in Ponte Verde, Florida. Judge Yamin is serving as the co-chair of the Curriculum

Committee. The conference will cover right to association issues in conservatorship cases and elder abuse issues.

6. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator

Judge Knierim reported that the legislative session ended without an approved budget. A Mitigation Bill was passed to deal with the current year's deficit. The bill suspends the automatic sweep of the probate fund. Instead, on June 30, \$3.4 million will be swept from the probate fund, but the remaining funds will be left intact.

Judge Knierim encouraged all judges and staff to continue in their efforts to support the budget process.

Judge Knierim reported that there are policy changes that have affected the probate pension system. In the last report on the pension fund, the probate pension system was funded at 107%. Based on a reduction of forecasted returns on investment performance, the current report has the system funded at 84%. Last years' funding for the pension system was \$2.3 million. Because of these policy changes, for the coming fiscal year the pension contribution will rise to \$4 million. The fund currently has approximately \$90 million and pays out \$5 million annually.

PCA is working on developing standards of practice for conservators. PCA has received a grant to build an online training module for conservators and plans to have it operable by January 1, 2018.

On July 1, 2017, the Contract Conservator program is expanding. Approximately 30 contract conservators have enrolled, this is up from 10 last year. Judge Knierim requests that all judges encourage more conservators to join the program.

7. Remarks of the President Judge

Judge Mahon reminded all to continue to speak with their legislators in support of funding for the probate system.

8. Other Business to come before the Assembly- None

9. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Leah Schad
Recording Secretary