

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2017

Attendees: Judges Mahon, Wright, Berkenstock, Keeney, Brandt, DePanfilis, Magistrali, Randich, Marino, Purnell, Daly, Landgrebe, Forgione, Streit-Kefalas, Becker, Schad and Probate Court Administrator Knierim.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:46 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes from December 14, 2016 meeting approved.

3. Correspondence: None.

4. Treasurer's Report:

The current budget is \$40,000.00. The only funds expended to date are for educational meetings. The State has not yet completed the audit for the years 2013-2015. Report approved.

5. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education – Judge Becker

The next seminar is scheduled for January 24, 2017 and will cover conservatorships. Judge Becker raised the idea of charging retired and former judges \$50.00 to attend continuing education seminars. Motion was made and approved to open up continuing education seminars at no cost for the next calendar year.

Ethics – Judge Magistrali

The next meeting is on January 24th, 2017, and the committee plans to address the use of social media and listservs and to discuss feedback on the updated code.

Legislative – Judge Fox and Judge Rowe

Judge Mahon reported that the legislative session has started and encourages all judges to reach out to legislators. Three legislative proposals are presented for approval: (1) probate court operations, (2) random audits of conservators and (3) increasing funding for conservators through Title 19. All three proposals were approved. Talking points for judges will be distributed by Vin Russo shortly.

Nominating – Judge Marino

The slate of candidates for 2017-2018 was presented by Judge Marino. Slate approved.

Planning – Judge Brandt

No report.

Procedures Review – Judge Berkenstock

The next meeting is on January 30, 2017. The committee continues the work of revising forms.

Public Information – Judge Purnell

No report.

Ad Hoc Committees:

Conservatorship Guidelines – Judge DeGennaro

Via email, Judge DeGennaro reported that the next meeting is scheduled for January. There is a seminar planned for contract conservators following the next probate assembly meeting.

Floating Clerks – Judge Berkenstock

Judge Berkenstock gave some background on the committee. It was established in 2013 to provide courts with coverage in the event of an emergency or a long term planned clerk absence.

Hospitality – Judge Yamin

Via email, Judge Yamin reported that she is trying to plan an event at the Pez Factory this year.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator – Judge Knierim

Judge Knierim explained that efforts are underway to maximize space and efficiency in the public and meeting areas of the PCA offices as well as to expand the use of video conferencing.

Judge Knierim gave an overview of the Truancy Clinic Program. The statute permits any Probate Court that serves a school district designated by the state board of education as an alliance district may establish a truancy clinic. There are no extra appropriations to support the Truancy Clinic program. The existing clinics have focused on elementary schools and have shown the greatest success when the local school board is committed to making the program work. Both the relevant statute and a list of alliance district towns were distributed to the Committee.

Typically, a referral is made to the clinic by the school. Parents are then served with a summons to the Truancy Clinic. If the parents agree to participate, it is a 12-month commitment. The court is responsible for filing an annual report on the work of the clinic.

7. Comments of the President-Judge

No comments.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee

Judge Elkin suggested that a PCA staff member be designated to deal with judge retirement issues and questions. While the staff at PCA was excellent to work with, he found it difficult to obtain all the information and assistance necessary for his retirement in one place.

9. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Leah Schad
Recording Secretary