

Probate Practice Book Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 15, 2011
1:30 p.m.

Four Points by Sheraton Hotel
275 Research Park Road
Meriden, Connecticut

The meeting was convened at 1:40 p.m. by Judge Paul J. Knierim, Probate Court Administrator and Chair.

Other members in attendance: Attorney Molly Ackerly, Judge Michael Albis, Attorney Bonnie Bennet, Attorney Douglas Brown, Professor Jeffery Cooper, Ms. Suzette Farrar, Judge Gerald Fox, Attorney Tom Gaffey, Attorney Karen Gano, Attorney Paul Hudon, Attorney Christopher Hug, Attorney Patricia Kaplan, Judge Robert Killian, Attorney Gabriella Kiniry, Attorney Andrew Knott, Judge Brian Mahon, Judge John McGrath, Attorney Carmine Perri, Attorney Greta Solomon, Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas, Mr. Arthur Teal, Judge Claire Twerdy, Ms. Sondra Waterman, Judge Steven Zelman.

Members absent: Mr. Stephen Pednault

Also in attendance: Attorney David Biklen, Committee Reporter

Judge Knierim welcomed the members and highlighted the goals of the committee. The primary goal is to complete a comprehensive revision of the Connecticut Probate Practice Book within one year. In developing the practice book, the committee was encouraged to balance the goal of uniformity of probate practice with the need to maintain informality, discretion of judges and a user-friendly court system.

Committee Process – Outline of Topics and Subcommittee Structure

There will be three subcommittees that will each meet monthly to refine the assigned topics, develop concepts for rules, and ultimately draft the specific rules for those topics.

The three subcommittees will be chaired by Judges Albis, Mahon and Zelman. Each subcommittee will be supported by a scribe: Judge Knierim, Attorney Gaffey and Attorney Bennet. The scribes will assemble relevant documents and resources, including statutes and rules of practice, for each subcommittee's consideration.

The full committee will meet quarterly to review and provide feedback on the work of the subcommittees. David Biklen, the Committee Reporter, will be the principal drafter and will support all three subcommittees.

After discussion, the committee agreed that the practice book could logically be organized into four principal areas:

1. Administrative
2. Proceedings in general
3. Hearings
4. Rules for specific types of matters

Topics 1 and 2 are assigned to Subcommittee I. Subcommittee II is responsible for rules regarding the conduct of hearings and Subcommittee III will work on rules for specific types of matters. The chair will assign specific topics to each of the four major areas.

The committee members submitted their preferences for subcommittees, with assignments to be made by the chair with the goal of establishing subcommittees of relatively equal size.

Meeting Schedule

The quarterly meetings for the full committee will take place on September 15, 2011, December 15, 2011, March 15, 2012 and June 21, 2012. All committee meetings will take place at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator, 186 Newington Road, West Hartford, CT from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The schedule of monthly subcommittee meetings will be established by subcommittee chairs after committee assignments are finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.