

CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

January 19, 2021

In attendance: Judges Becker, Blick, Brandt, Calabrese, Gardner Riordan, and Attorney Francesca Knerr, Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet and Attorney Evan Brunetti.

Call to order 1:10 p.m.

Attorney Brunetti presented the schedule of planned bi-weekly webinars for the first few months of 2021 on screen. The plan is for two to four hours per month between now and June.

The schedule for continuing education webinars is set through March. The Committee reviewed potential topics for the remaining dates through June. Mutual Distribution Agreements, Settlement Agreements, Digital Assets, Disclaimers, Workplace Violence, Bonds and Restricted Accounts, Personal Property were some of the topics that were discussed.

The schedule already set includes:

January 27, 2021

Veterans Affairs representatives Jonathan Page and John Lamonaca will present to judges and staff attorneys on Federal Fiduciaries. The webinar will begin at 10:00 a.m. The webinar will be moderated by Judge DeGennaro. The webinar is anticipated to be a 1.5 hour seminar.

February 18, 2021

Real Property will be presented to new judges, judges, staff attorneys, court clerks and court staff. Attorney Ellen Sostman, recently retired from CATIC, will present on this topic. She will present from the Office of the Probate Court Administrator and, therefore, a moderator will not be needed. Previously, the committee had planned on Lisa Lugauskas from Fidelity National Title Insurance to present this topic with Judge Brandt as moderator.

March 2, 2021

Judge Marino and Judge Wexler will present on Commitments and Probable Cause Hearings. Judge Gardner Riordan will moderate the presentation. The webinar will be at 1:00 p.m. and is scheduled for 1.5 hours. The presentation will be for judges, staff attorneys, court staff.

March 18, 2021

Professor Jeffrey Cooper and Attorney John Ivimey will present their Case Law Update for 1.5 hours beginning at 10:00 a.m. for judges and staff attorneys. A moderator will be determined at the next committee meeting.

March 31, 2021

Mediation will be presented by Superior Court Judge Holzberg and Judge Calabrese to judges and staff attorneys. Judge Becker will moderate the presentation which is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. for 1.5 hours.

Added to the schedule were the following dates and topics:

April 13, 2021

The plan is to see if Attorney Suzanne Walsh would present on the topic of Digital Assets. Judge Brandt or Attorney Knerr will moderate. The time of the webinar will be determined after checking with Attorney Walsh as to her availability.

The Probate Assembly Annual Meeting and the annual Chief Clerks training will take place in April as well and, due to those additional events in that month, only one webinar is planned at this time.

May 4, 2021

The proposed topic for this webinar will be Disclaimers. Attorney Brunetti and Attorney Bennet indicated that they receive a number of questions from judges and staff regarding disclaimers and how the courts should address these. Potential speaker or speakers on this topic will be determined at future meetings.

May 19, 2021

No topic was discussed for this date yet.

June 3, 2021

It was proposed that Mutual Distribution and Settlement Agreements to be the topics for this webinar. The scope of the presentation needs to be clarified more. Attorney Brunetti will review CMS data to determine if any particular judge or judges have addressed these topics.

June 16, 2021

No topic was discussed for this date yet.

June 29, 2021

The committee thought that a Workplace Violence presentation by Marshal Jeffrey Getz may be appropriate in late June because the courts may be open to the public to some extent and everyone should be reminded of court security issues.

The September seminar and Probate Assembly meeting may be held at a venue, and the Office of the Probate Court Administrator will continue to investigate venue options.

The October Judges Institute and potential Probate Assembly meeting may be held at a venue, and the Office of the Probate Court Administrator will continue to investigate venue options.

The November 2021 seminar is scheduled for November 16, 2021 in conjunction with the Connecticut Bar Association at the Aqua Turf.

The Committee planned that its meetings would be held on the third Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Due to a scheduling concern, the February meeting was changed to Wednesday, February 17, at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael R. Brandt
Committee Member