

Connecticut Probate Assembly
Continuing Education Committee Meeting

June 29, 2020

Present: Judges Becker, Blick, Calabrese, Zelman, Gardner Riordan and Brandt; Francesca Knerr (Hartford Staff Attorney); and Bonnie Bennet and Evan Brunetti (PCA).

Called to order: 10:30 a.m.

Discussion of September 2, 2020 Seminar

There is a consensus among the Committee that due to COVID 19 concerns around gathering in groups that we should not explore holding an outdoor seminar at the Farmington Polo grounds. A large gathering, even outside, raises safety questions. Given all the unknowns, and given the investment in reserving the venue, all agreed that the Committee should focus on planning shorter, remote programs for the balance of the year.

Bonnie will check with Chief Justice Robinson, who was scheduled to present in September, as to whether he is willing to offer his program on diversity training remotely or would prefer to put it off until we can meet in person.

Continuing Education Requirements

Bonnie Bennet clarified that Regulation 26 requires 15 hours of continuing legal education earned by personal attendance. "Personal attendance" includes most webinars offered through PCA. 8 hours of the 15 must be offered through PCA. The balance of 7 hours can be offered through other sources, such as the CT Bar Association, but these programs must be probate related in terms of topic and approved by the Judicial Education Standards Committee in accordance with Regulation 26.3.

Information as to number of hours logged by each judge can be found in Paychex.

Under Regulation 26, the Judicial Education Standards Committee (Judges Becker, Daly and Schad) can waive the continuing education requirements under extreme circumstances, but that decision would likely be made at the end of the year. Judge Brandt reported that Pete Smith shared that other industries (real estate, for example) are choosing that remedy.

Judge Becker will prepare a draft of an email to all judges, and work with PCA to finalize it, clarifying the requirements so that Judges can plan for the rest of the year in terms of meeting requirements.

Topics for Remote Presentations

Implicit Bias, Micro-aggression and Diversity training(Chief Justice Robinson and Justice Kahn); Indian Child Welfare Act(UConn Professor); Did You Know That(Amy Benjamin); Active Shooter; Evidence; Webex training , including presentation of evidence; VA regulation changes; Capacity and Conservatorships(Dr. Harry Morgan); Special Immigration Juvenile Status; Ethics of Judges Participating in Peaceful Protests(Ethics Committee).

There will be two new judges so may be necessary to incorporate new judge training in the November offering.

Next meeting: July 20, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gardner Riordan