



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Meeting of the Continuing Education Committee

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

MINUTES

Present: Hon. Michael Brandt; Hon. Domenick Calabrese; Hon. Mark DeGennaro; Hon. Barbara Gardner Riordan; Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Chair; Attorney Evan Brunetti.

The meeting was called to order at 9:48 a.m.

Brief discussion of the September educational program, which was well attended and responses from attendees indicate it was very impactful. By way of brief discussion, the October 25, 2023 Judges Institute will be held at Central Connecticut State University and the following topics will be presented:

- Panel of Probate Judges discussing challenges addressing Limited English Proficiency
- Building and managing successful teams
- Legislative update
- Discussion of various aspects of probate jurisdiction

The speakers and topics have been finalized for the Joint CBA/Probate Assembly Program, which will be held at the Aqua Turf on November 14, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. and will essentially consist of attorney and probate judge panels presenting on the following topics: probate accountings; elder abuse/exploitation; trust modification, jurisdiction and practice; and fiduciary and attorney fees. Additionally, Dr. Harry Morgan will present on the topic of capacity and illnesses impacting judgment/decision making.

Discussion of potential topics for the January 24, 2024 Judges Institute include:

- UCCJEA and/or UAPPJA, history and implementation, impact of virtual hearings
- Title 17a and 19a Potpourri: Commitment of Children, Drug & Alcohol Commitments; medication against will, DDS placement, Tuberculosis, and other “emergency” hearings
- Various Ethics topics such as: Complaints before the Council on Probate Judicial Conduct, Disqualification Process Rule 15, Specific Presentation on various Cannons of Probate Judicial Conduct
- Panel discussion on generating respect in the courtroom

Further discussion on potential topics for the 2024 educational programs to be held on March 14, June 26, and in September included:

- Retirement and challenges facing retirement, such as special elections, for Judges
- De-escalation techniques in the courtroom and courtroom management
- Mediation
- Annual Case law Update
- Discussion forum on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the court system

- Impact of Secondary Trauma on judges, clerks, and parties appearing in the court
- In depth review of Discovery in Probate Court proceedings
- Interviewing techniques (targeted selection)
- Informational presentation on Supportive Decision Making
- “New” Probate Rules of Procedure (when updated in July 2024)
- Review of Probate Appeal and Superior Court Appeals process, including how and when probate decrees are stayed
- Judges Favorite statutes: Potpourri of Judges presenting and discussing their favorite probate statutes

The last meeting of the Continuing Education Committee for 2023 will be held in-person on December 20, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator, Library.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus of all members at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Jeannine Lewis
Committee Chair