



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Meeting of the Continuing Education Committee

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

Many sitting and retired judges attended the Joint CBA/Probate Assembly Program on November 14, 2023. Feedback on the venue, meal selection, and program were all very positive.

Topics and speakers for the January 24, 2024 Judges Institute have been finalized. The program will take place in the Connecticut Room at CCSU. The program will cover the following topics:

- Interstate Jurisdiction Issues (UAPPJA)
- Drug & Alcohol Commitments
- Children's Commitments
- Tuberculosis Commitments
- Electroshock Therapy
- Patient Rights: Psychiatric Treatment and Medications
- Voluntary Admissions
- Ethics 101: Code of Probate Judicial Conduct (qualifies for ethics credit)

The remainder of the meeting focused on discussion of the content of the programs for the 2024 seminars, and the Committee discussed the following potential topics:

March 14, 2024 at Quinnipiac University School of Law potential topics

- Mediation
- Annual Case Law Update
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the court system
- Informational presentation on Supportive Decision Making
- As proposed by Judge Marino of the Middletown Probate District, to host a panel of newly elected judges discussing questions regarding their varying experiences and observations in the first year of taking the office of Judge of Probate.

June 26, 2024 and September 18, 2024 at CCSU (Constitution Room) potential topics

- De-escalation techniques: both in the court and in the courtroom
- Firearms Rights: regarding the loss and restoration of firearms rights, NICS requirements, impact of conservators and commitments on firearms rights.
- Review of Probate and Superior Court appeals process, including how and when probate decrees are stayed
- UCCJEA and interstate jurisdictional issues
- Impact of secondary trauma on judges, clerks, and parties appearing in the court

- General Americans with Disabilities Act discussion and training
- Resources available from the Victim Services Advocate, Office of the Child Advocate and Health Care Advocate
- Overlapping jurisdiction within the state (between Probate Courts and between Probate Court and Superior Court)

October 23, 2024/November 20, 2024 at CCSU (Connecticut Room)

- Annual Legislative Update
- In depth review of discovery in Probate Court proceedings
- Interviewing techniques (targeted selection)
- “New” Probate Rules of Procedure (target July 2024 revisions)
- Judges’ favorite statutes: potpourri of judges presenting and discussing their favorite probate statutes

Potential topics for future meetings include:

- Forensic accounting topic
- DDS placement and other emergency hearings
- Panel discussion on generating respect in the courtroom
- Disqualification process and Rule 15
- Complaints before the Council on Probate Judicial Conduct

The next meeting will be held in-person on February 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator, Library. The meeting schedule for the rest of 2024 is as follows: April 24, June 5, August 21, October 16, and December 18. All meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator, Library.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus of all members at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Jeannine Lewis
Committee Chair