



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the ETHICS COMMITTEE

December 4, 2024
3:00 p.m.

MINUTES

In attendance: Judges Bartlett, Brandt, Darby, Gardner-Riordan, Hoyle, Lewis, and Probate Court Administrator Streit-Kefalas

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes of the March 6, 2024 meeting

Judge Gardner-Riordan made a motion to approve the minutes. Judge Darby seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. General Discussion

Judge Brandt opened the discussion with some ethical concerns raised in the November Judges Institute. There was discussion that some topics that may need clarification or supplemental guidance.

4. New Business

Judge Streit-Kefalas suggested the committee participate in a panel presentation for two hours of ethics at the March 2025 Judges Institute.

Judge Bartlett shared that the Council on Probate Judicial Probate Conduct is also willing to present again to the Probate Judges.

The committee also discussed the usage of artificial intelligence and ethical issues that may be created for judges. Judge Brandt attended two webinars offered through the National Center for State Courts. He will complete his review and forward the links to committee members.

Judge Brandt discussed the goal of transmitting regular emails of relevant judicial ethics decisions to the judges. The National Center for State Courts offers a number of newsletters including on opinions and decisions across the country on judicial ethics. He and Judge Streit-Kefalas explained that although many of the recent emails address extreme cases of ethical violations, the newsletters are a valuable resource and guide. Judge Brandt asked committee members to track the ethical issues that arise before them

for the committee to review and perhaps publish a periodic email to all probate judges from the Ethics Committee.

5. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael R. Brandt
Committee Chair