



## CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

### **Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee January 8, 2025 9:45 a.m.**

**Office of the Probate Court Administrator**  
186 Newington Rd.  
West Hartford, CT 06110

Attendees: Judges Brandt, Berkenstock, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Lewis, McCaffrey, Randich and Steck, PCA Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler and Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas.

**1. Call to Order:**

Judge Darby called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

Judge Darby passed on the approval of minutes due to lack of a quorum.

**3. Correspondence:**

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that there was no correspondence.

**4. Treasurer's Report:**

Judge Randich discussed the expenditures for the quarter, two payments were made to Central Connecticut State University for the continuing education seminars. The report could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.

**5. Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the committee had a meeting on December 18, 2024. The next educational seminar will be January 22, 2025 at Central Connecticut State University. There will be two panels of judges. The first panel will speak about their favorite and least favorite statutes. Another panel will discuss medical evidence. There will also be a presentation on powers of attorneys from a banking perspective. The final program will address the new Trust Decanting Act. The next Committee meeting will be on February 19, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the committee's next meeting is on February 27, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library.

#### Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported the legislative session opens today. Attorney Evan Brunetti is there and she would join him soon after the Executive Committee meeting. She anticipates that the overall state budget and therefore Probate Court system general fund request will be challenging. The governor will make present his budget proposal on February 5, 2025. Judge Streit-Kefalas explained that there are a number of pressure points related to education, mental health, and behavioral health concerns. The public hearing before the Appropriations committee will commence soon. She will be seeking the assistance of judges throughout the process.

#### Nominating

No report. The approved slate will be presented at the January Assembly meeting.

#### Planning

Judge Darby reported on behalf of Chair Judge Anthony that the next meeting is on January 15, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA library.

#### Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the next meeting is on March 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

#### Public Information

No report.

#### Security

No report.

#### NCPJ

Judge McCaffrey reported that the spring conference will be from May 6 to May 9, 2025 in Mystic, Connecticut. She encouraged one hundred percent attendance of the Probate Judges. There is also a request for the Assembly to approve sponsorship of a \$1,500.00 expenditure for the welcome event. The fall conference will be in Texas from November 11 to November 14, 2025.

#### **5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:**

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the calendar of meetings and conferences is out and is posted on the intranet. The annual Chief Clerks Meeting will be held at Central Connecticut State University on February 26, 2025.

The Auditor of Public Accounts completed its report and made no findings and no recommendations to the Office of the Probate Court Administrator.

Judge Streit-Kefalas cautioned the judges to review attorney billing carefully. There are at least two pending matters of concern related to fraudulent charges. She reminded the judges that the fees come from public dollars and we are responsible for use for the appropriate use of those funds.

**7. Comments of the President Judge:**

Judge Darby congratulated Judge Streit-Kefalas for a clean audit. He recognized how difficult an accomplishment it was and praised the efforts.

Judge Darby also indicated that he would circle back with Judge Shepard related to an ad hoc committee on conservatorships. It is a challenge, but the Assembly should always be looking to improve our conservatorship system.

**8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:**

None.

**8. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Michael R. Brandt, Acting Recording Secretary