



## CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

### Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee January 10, 2024 9:45 a.m.

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

Attendees: Judges Barrett, Brandt, Daly, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, Randich and also Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas and Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler.

**1. Call to Order:**

Judge Daly called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of December 13, 2023 was made by Judge Gardner Riordan, seconded by Judge Jalowiec and unanimously approved.

**3. Correspondence:**

Judges Daly and Streit-Kefalas reported no correspondence for the Executive Committee or Assembly.

**4. Treasurer Reports:**

Judge Randich presented the Treasurer's Report for the second quarter ending December 31, 2023. Judge Darby moved and Judge Brandt seconded a motion to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**5. Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the last Committee meeting was December 20, 2023. The Committee continues to work on upcoming seminar topics. The next seminar is the Judges Institute to be held at CCSU in the Connecticut Room. Topics will include interstate jurisdiction, commitments, patients' rights and the Code of Probate Judicial Conduct. The Committee's next meeting will be February 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that he and Judge Hoyle will be presenting at the January Judges Institute on ethics.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the legislative session will open on February 7, 2024. She is continuing to meet with leadership including the members of the Judiciary Committee earlier in the week. One goal is to amend language in C.G.S. § 45a-715 for consistency with the Parentage Act. Additionally, PCA is advocating for reinstatement of the filing fee for name changes. The probate ops bill is straight forward. The next committee meeting is Friday, February 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court.

Nominating

No Report.

Planning

Judge Darby reported that the Committee will be meeting January 22, 2024 to compile internal best practice guidance for judges on when to utilize virtual hearings.

Procedures Review

No Report.

Public Information

No Report.

Court Security

No Report.

**6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:**

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. Happy and healthy new year to all. COVID is still among us so follow CDC guidelines for masking and isolating.
- b. The Rules Committee public hearing will be at the Supreme Court on January 30, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Please send PCA any comments on the proposed revisions. The proposed effective date of the revised rules will be July 1, 2024.
- c. Evelyn Gonzalez has emailed the 2024 calendar of seminar and committee meetings. Please mark your individual CMS and court calendars with the dates.
- d. The legislative session is short but will be intense.
- e. She is getting feedback from attorneys on their dislike of video conference hearings in the Superior Court. She has received generally favorable feedback about the Probate Courts' return to in-person hearings.

- f. Congratulations to Judge Daly as the recipient of the CBA's Ladder Award. All are encouraged to attend the presentation on March 7, 2024 at the Aqua Turf. Judge Daly has hosted law students as interns for many years among other accomplishments.

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

Judge Daly wished everyone a Happy New Year. She discussed with the members present the dilemma with finding attorneys to serve in our courts. It is especially difficult to find attorneys to serve as conservators and many of the contract conservators are too busy to spend the time needed to attend to conserved persons' needs.

Judge Jalowiec raised the issue of the need to educate agency representatives about their role in probate matters.

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

Judge Jalowiec discussed the issues faced in closing decedent's estates when more than 3 firearms need to be transferred, in light of the newest legislation in this area.

**9. Adjournment:**

Judge Darby moved and Judge Gardner Riordan seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary