



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

March 13, 2024
9:45 a.m.

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

Attendees: Judges Berkenstock, Brandt, Ceneviva, Daly, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Marino, Maxham, McCaffrey, McGrath, Osterndorf, Randich. Also Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas and Chief Counsel Heather Dostaler.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Daly called the meeting to order at 9:49 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2024 meeting was made by Judge Brandt, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and was unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

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

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the next seminar is the Judges Institute at Quinnipiac University School of Law on March 14, 2024. Topics will include the annual case law update, AI and an introduction to supported decision making. The June seminar is a Probate Assembly to be held at CCSU. Planned topics are de-escalation techniques to be presented by the Judicial Branch and a presentation from the State Library on archives. The committee's next meeting is April 24, 2024, at 9:30 in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the Committee met last week and debriefed comments from the seminar. The Committee plans to follow up on Rule 15.6 and send out sample notice per Rule 15.6 to judges. The next Committee meeting is June 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the PCA Library.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported much activity in the legislature. She shared that we are supporting the Governor's budget adjustment together with his proposal to suspend

the automatic sweep. The Committee on Children is focusing on child welfare cases in both the Juvenile and Probate Courts. She also reported that she has testified on at least 5-7 bills. The session ends on May 8, 2024. The next Committee meeting is April 5, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court.

Nominating

Judge Marino reported that the slate is set and approved. Judge Peoples will be presenting the slate at the Annual Meeting. The Committee has no scheduled meetings.

Planning

Judge Darby reported that the Committee is continuing to compile best practice guidance for judges regarding virtual and in-person hearings. The next Committee meeting is April 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the East Haven-North Haven court.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the Committee met on March 4, and had a very productive meeting. The next meeting is on June 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Public Information

The next Committee meeting is on April 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the PCA Library.

Court Security (ad hoc)

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the survey deadline had been extended. She encouraged all judges to complete it. She reported that there has been a good response to it thus far.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. Please respond to Evelyn Gonzalez's email invitations. PCA uses the responses to calculate whether a quorum will be available for a meeting.
- b. There is a coalition in Connecticut advocating for supported decision making. The terminology has been adopted in a number of states but with a wide variety of rules in each state. The organization will be providing information at the Judges Institute tomorrow.
- c. A number of chief clerks and clerks are participating in a CMS redesign with our IT Department. It is an exciting project and will enhance the security of the system, amongst many other positive upgrades.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Daly is seeking a nomination for the Glenn Knierim Pro Bono Award. The judges also discussed the difficulties in finding attorneys for pro bono matters. Judges also weighed the pros and cons of virtual versus in person hearings.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

8. Adjournment:

Judge Randich moved and Judge Darby seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary