

CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the
Executive Committee
April 13, 2022

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

MINUTES

Attendees: Judges Becker, Berkenstock, Brandt, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Lewis, Magistrali, Maxham, McGrath, Randich, Schad and Wright. Also present: Probate Court Administrator Judge Streit-Kefalas, and Finance Director Lisa Hansen.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Brandt called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting was made by Judge Wright, seconded by Judge Becker, and unanimously approved. A motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting was made by Judge Gardner Riordan, seconded by Judge Becker, and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

Judge Brandt and Judge Streit-Kefalas reported no correspondence for the Assembly.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Judge Randich reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022. The Report reflects a few expenditures for seminars. Judge Magistrali moved and Judge Gardner Riordan seconded the approval of the report. The motion carried unanimously. Judge Randich presented the proposed annual budget for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. The proposed budget is the same as the previous fiscal year. Judge Lewis moved and Judge Gardner Riordan seconded approval of the proposed Annual Budget for FYE 6/30/2023. The motion unanimously carried.

5. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Becker reported that the next Assembly gathering is at the Supreme Court on April 20 for Judges only. The next Committee meeting will be in May. The next seminar is scheduled for June 22, 2022 at the Farmington Club.

Ethics

Judge Magistrali reported that the Committee had not met recently but reminded the Judges that our code allows for advance opinions. Judge Streit-Kefalas reminded the judges that our internet has details on campaign ethics. Judge Magistrali

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reported that the Council on Probate Judicial Conduct will be participating in the seminar on June 22 focusing on judicial complaints and how to respond to them.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported at this point in the session the General Fund appropriation for the budget is being funded at normalized levels. She credited the judges and court staff with their hard work and indicated that Probate Courts enjoy a good reputation with state legislators.

The Probate Ops bill is awaiting Senate action. Other bills are being followed and there will be an update on pending bills within the next week.

Nominating

Judge Brandt reported that the slate of officers will be elected at the Annual Meeting.

Planning

No Report

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the next Committee meeting is May 2nd .

Public Information

Judge Brandt indicated that presentation panels are available for judges use.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Conservator Guidelines

No Report

Hospitality

No Report

Court Security

No Report

Floating Clerks

No Report.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas introduced Lisa Hansen and together they presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the proposed budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. A few FY23 initiatives include a salary compensation and compression study, expansion of eFiling system to all state agencies, hybrid hearing technology and enhanced payroll management. The proposed budget reflects flat funding and includes COLA and merit raises for staff. No comments were offered by the judges present. The budget will next be presented to Chief Court Administrator Judge Carroll for his approval.

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Judge Streit-Kefalas also commented that the statutory biennial report has been filed, the updated Code of Probate Judicial Conduct has been published and both will be distributed at the annual meeting. She reminded judges that the Statement of Financial Interest is due to PCA Finance Department by April 15, 2022.

She additionally reported that the Connecticut Bar Association has requested changes to TurboCourt that will be implemented on April 18, 2022. Attorneys will receive a summary email of filings each day rather than multiple notices throughout the day.

Finally, Judge Streit-Kefalas thanked Judge Brandt for the phenomenal job he has done as President-Judge for the last 2 years.

7. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Brandt reminded all judges to complete performance evaluations for staff. He commented that our budget includes COLA and merit raises again this year. He thanked all the judges for attendance at the meetings and especially for PCA support when the meetings were virtual. He especially thanked Judge Streit-Kefalas for her support over his tenure as President.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

9. Adjournment:

Judge Randich moved and Judge Shad seconded a motion to adjourn that unanimously carried.

The meeting ended at 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham
Recording Secretary