



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

May 8, 2024
9:45 a.m.

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

Attendees: Judges Barrett, Berkenstock, Brandt, Ceneviva, Gardner Riordan, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, McGrath, McCaffrey, Osterndorf, Randich, and Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Barrett called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2024, was made by Judge Lewis, seconded by Judge Hoyle and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

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

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the next seminar and Assembly meeting is June 26, 2024 and will be held at CCSU. Planned topics are Firearms Rights; Situational Awareness and De-escalation Techniques; a presentation from the State Library on archives and probate records; a panel on probate appeals and a presentation on subpoenas. The committee is working on a collaborative program with the Connecticut Bar Association on children's matters for September. The committee's next meeting is June 5, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

Ethics

Judge Hoyle reported that the committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. The next committee meeting is June 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the PCA Library. The time may be changed.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas spoke about legislative issues in her comments.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the members are continuing to develop best practices guidelines on hearings for use by judges.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the next meeting is on June 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Public Information

No Report.

Court Security

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the committee met to compile the results of the survey that likely will be presented at an Assembly meeting.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. The East Hartford Probate Court was temporarily relocated and has now moved back to the Town Hall. Judge McGrath is seeking a new location for the Northeast Regional Children's Probate Court.
- b. This week is Lawyer (and Judge) Well-Being week. Please take advantage of opportunities to support your mental health.
- c. Our proposed regulations were submitted to the Judiciary Committee and will be deemed to be approved after 90 days if there is no comment. The 90 days will expire next week.
- d. Today is the last day of the legislative session. There were no legislative budget adjustments but legislation that addressed ARPA funds also included a provision to support our budget. Future budgets may prove increasingly challenging with anticipated revenue reductions.
- e. It is anticipated that our Probate Ops bill will be called and approved by the legislature today. The TPR parentage language was removed from the bill.
- f. Judges should utilize background checks more frequently and order DCF investigations on all children's matters. The Committee discussed continuing education of court appointed guardian ad litem and attorneys.
- g. Judge Streit-Kefalas encouraged judges to attend the Clerks Roundtable sessions.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

In the absence of Judge Darby, Judge Barrett had no prepared comments.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

Judge McCaffrey reminded us of the upcoming NCPJ Spring Conference and asked all to commit to attend the May 2025 Spring Conference in Mystic, CT.

8. Adjournment:

Judge Brandt moved and Judge McGrath seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary