

**CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
May 12, 2021**

Attendees: Judges Barrett, Becker, Berkenstock, Blick, Brandt, Daly, Darby, DeGennaro, Fox, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Lewis, Magistrali, Maxham, McGrath, Randich, Shad, Wright and also Probate Court Administrator Judge Streit-Kefalas, Chief Counsel Heather Dostaler and Manager of Communications, Melissa Riley.

**1. Call to Order:**

Due to the continued public health emergency, the meeting was held in person and remotely via Cisco Webex video conferencing and was called to order at 9:47 a.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion was made by Judge Magistrali, seconded by Judge Becker and carried to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of April 14, 2021 as presented. Judge Wright abstained.

**3. Correspondence:**

Judge Brandt reported that he had received no correspondence. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported she also had not received any correspondence.

**4. Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

Judge Becker indicated that she had nothing new to report. The next meeting is on May 18, 2021. She indicated that the Judicial Educations Standards Committee issued a blanket approval of the upcoming virtual seminar to be given by the NCPJ so judges do not have to request approval individually.

The upcoming webinars were noted.

Ethics

No Report

Legislative

Judge Fox reported that the ongoing General Assembly session will end on June 9 and it is getting near crunch time. The Probate Court operations bill should pass and the Appropriations Committee included our requested budget amount in their budget recommendation. Legislation was also passed that extended the Governor's executive powers to July.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

No Report

### Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the Committee met on May 3, 2021. Of note at the meeting the Committee approved the creation of separate inventory forms for different case types. The next meeting is July 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Judge Streit-Kefalas noted that if the new forms are approved then training will be offered to ensure that clerks do not reject inventory forms if not submitted on the new forms after they are available.

### Public Information

Judge Blick reported that a new meeting will be scheduled and the Committee is finalizing the brochure and education panels.

## **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

### Conservator Guidelines

No Report

### Hospitality

No Report

### Court Security

No Report

### Floating Clerks

No Report.

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

Judge Streit-Kefalas commented that the annual meeting went incredibly well, especially the recognition of the honorees and clerks. She reported that vaccinations are ongoing in Connecticut and the PCA staff is almost fully vaccinated. The increased rate will help to fully open our doors to the public.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that negotiations to avoid the nursing home strike that is slated for Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> are ongoing. It can be a very stressful and disruptive so judges should be aware if there is a strike in their community.

The House did extend the Governor's powers to issue executive orders until July 20, 2021. The Senate is in session today and may approve the extension of powers. The orders that affect the Probate Courts are Executive Orders 7F sec 4 and 7K sec 1. She is working with the Governor's office to extend as needed.

Judge Streit-Kefalas is continuing to meet and pursue our budget request with General Assembly leadership on both sides.

## **6. Comments of the President Judge:**

Judge Brandt encouraged all to attend the NCPJ seminar today. He thanked all judges who participated in the Annual Meeting. He appreciates Justice Robinson's support of the probate system. As the budget seems to be moving forward, Judge Brandt encouraged all judges to review the planned merit and COLA raises with staff.

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

Judge Streit-Kefalas requested the Executive Committee to vote to "authorize Judge Randich as the new Treasurer to grant Evelyn Gonzalez the authority to pay certain approved invoices from the Assembly's budget without further Executive Committee approval, provided the expenditure is within the budgeted amount".

Judge Darby moved the motion as stated. Judge Daly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Judge Streit-Kefalas also reminded all present that staff performance evaluations are due by May 31. The Probate Court Budget Committee will meet after the close of the legislative session to review funding of merit raises

**8. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Judge Gardner Riordan, seconded by Judge Darby and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham  
Recording Secretary