



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

**Regular Meeting of the
Executive Committee
May 14, 2025
9:45 a.m.**

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

Attendees: Judges, Anthony, Berkenstock, Brandt, Ceneviva, Darby, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, McCaffrey, Randich, Osterndorf, and Steck. Also present: PCA Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler and Probate Court Administrator Beverly K. Streit.

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025 meeting was made by Judge Lewis, seconded by Judge Jalowiec, and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

None.

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the next meeting is June 18, 2025 at PCA. She has received several suggestions for future programs. The next program is Wednesday, June 25 in Cromwell. The topics include de-escalation techniques, temporary conservatorships, and trauma-informed communications.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the next meeting is June 12, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at PCA.

Legislative

Judge Streit reported that the Probate Court Operations bill was approved yesterday by the Senate with an amendment. Section 7 of the bill proposes a working group to review conservator compensation and related issues. The bill now goes to the House. Additionally, the Appropriations Committee budget proposal is to fund at \$13.3 million for FY26 and \$13.6 million for FY27 with a suspension of the sweep on June 30, 2025 and a reduction in the sweep for future fiscal years. The current proposal for FY27 ("Year 2") is problematic as our funding request is \$18 million.

Nominating

Judges Darby and Streit discussed that a new Chair is needed as Judge Marino retired in May.

Planning

Judge Anthony reported that the next meeting is May 14, 2025 right after this Executive Committee meeting.

Procedures Review

Judge Birkenstock reported the next meeting is June 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library. She also reported that the committee has a new member, Judge Sophia Shaikh.

Public Information

Judge Brandt reported that there is no new information, and that the committee's next meeting is on October 3, 2025.

Court Security

Judge Hoyle reported a meeting was held on May 5, 2025 but there was no quorum. Recently, communication was sent to all judges and chief clerks regarding results of the court security surveys. 50 out of 54 Courts responded to that survey last year.

NCPJ

Judge McCaffrey reported that the Conference was held in Mystic on May 6-9, and it was a success. There was a wonderful turnout of Connecticut judges, and she wanted to thank Judges Anthony, Yamin, and Purnell for a great conference. The next conference will be in Texas in November.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit reported on the following:

- She expressed thanks to Judge McCaffrey as the Connecticut state representative to the NCPJ and to all the CT judges, both sitting and retired, who attended. It was also a great opportunity to educate the Judicial Branch about NCPJ with the participation of Justice Greg D'Auria in giving the welcoming remarks.
- It is open enrollment for health insurance this month and there is a new website called Flock accessible via Paychex Flex.
- A non-attorney conservator is being investigated for his alleged excessive billing practices and pending completion of the investigation, he is no longer eligible to be compensated under Regulation 16.
- Court visits are underway.
- Spring Clerks Roundtables started this Monday with multiple locations and dates. Judges are strongly encouraged to have all staff attend one session.
- The Probate Court system's retirement fund is slightly underfunded but is still at a

very strong funding level of 99.4%.

- The overall budget for the next fiscal year has been submitted to the Chief Court Administrator.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

- Judge Darby thought that the Annual Meeting at the CT Supreme Court went well and there was great attendance.
- He also remarked that the NCPJ Conference went well with many Connecticut Judges in attendance.
- Judge Darby mentioned that he posted for new hires and since it was right around college graduation, he had some great applicants.
- The next Probate Assembly meeting is June 25, 2025.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

8. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Judge Hoyle and seconded by Judge Lewis.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Ariana F. Ceneviva, Executive/Recording Secretary