

**CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 2021**

Attendees: Judges Becker, Berkenstock, Blick, Brandt, Daly, Darby, DeGennaro, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Magistrali, Maxham, Randich, Rowe, 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 9:46 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Judge Darby, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and carried to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of May 12, 2021 as presented.

3. Correspondence:

Judge Brandt reported that he had received no correspondence. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported she also has not received any correspondence on behalf of the Assembly.

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Becker reported that the Committee is hosting 2 more webinars; June 23rd from 10:30-11:30 a.m. and June 29th, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. The next seminar will be in person on September 14th at the Farmington Club. The topics will likely be the new Parentage Act, Marriage of a Minor and an Ethics component. The Committee will host a Judge's Institute in October and the joint program with the Bar Association in November.

Ethics

Judge Magistrali reported that the Committee has not met and inquired about interest in membership from new members.

Legislative

Judge Rowe reported that the state budget, including full funding for probate courts, has passed the House. He thanked all who helped in the effort especially Judge Streit-Kefalas and Melissa Riley. He reported that the Probate Ops bill has passed and is awaiting the Governor's signature. The judges discussed other bills that were in the process of being passed.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

No Report

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock indicated that the Committee will next meet on July 12, 2021.

Public Information

No Report.

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 bi-partisan passage of the 2-year state budget by the House with full probate funding is good news for our system. She thanked all who reached out to their state representatives and senators. It is now before the Senate for passage with the anticipated signing by the Governor once passed.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Chief Court Administrator has formally approved the full probate court budget as presented at the April executive committee meeting. This budget includes a 6% compensation adjustment for staff in fiscal year 2022.

Judge Streit-Kefalas also reported that she received approval from the Connecticut State Employees Retirement Commission for a supplemental employer contribution of \$5 million dollars to the probate retirement system bringing it to almost 100% funding.

Judge Hamzy was sworn in on June 4th and taking over for retiring Judge Andre Dorval. He will be an asset to the probate court system. She encouraged all to welcome him.

The rollout of eFiling for state agencies is on schedule with DCF as the first agency.

The Budget Committee will meet on June 16, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

PCA is now heavily involved in annual court visits.

Several judges inquired about the Governor's Executive Orders and the probate courts' ability to continue using Cisco Webex video platform for hearings and in-person hearing requirements. Judge Streit-Kefalas indicated that the Rules Committee is currently considering

this issue. PCA will issue guidance to the judges on these issues as further guidance is presented by DPH and the Governor's office in anticipation of the July 20th expiration of executive orders.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Brandt expressed his thanks on behalf of the Assembly to Judge Streit-Kefalas and Melissa Riley for their efforts in pushing the budget through.

As courts transition back to normal practices he asked all to please reach out with any ideas for the Planning Committee or the Assembly.

Judge Daly will run the July meeting to be held remotely. The August meeting will be remote as well and the September meeting will be in person.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

8. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Judge Wright, seconded by Judge DeGennaro and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham
Recording Secretary