



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

June 12, 2024

9:45 a.m.

Office of the Probate Court Administrator

186 Newington Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06110

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Brandt, Daly, Darby, Hoyle, Lewis, Maxham, McGrath, McCaffrey, Osterndorf, Randich, Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler and Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Darby called the meeting to order at 9:49 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2024 meeting was made by Judge Lewis, seconded by Judge Daly and approved. Judge Darby abstained.

3. Correspondence:

Judges Darby 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 CT Bar Association on children's matters for September. LifeBridge Community Services will be presenting a program on trauma and secondary trauma. There will be an ethics component and a panel with a Juvenile Court Judge and Probate Court Judge to address children's matters. The committee's next meeting is August 21, 2024 at 9:30 in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the committee meeting on June 5, 2024 was cancelled.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas referenced her report at the May 8, 2024 meeting. She commented that there was no adjustment to the biennial budget. The summary of new legislation will be forthcoming. She also mentioned a Department of Public Health bill that was passed granting Probate Court jurisdiction to direct registrars of vital records to issue a birth certificate for a child born outside of an institution who is under the age of one year.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

Judge Anthony reported the committee met last month and members are working on the bench guide for judges regarding hearings.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported via Judge Darby that the last meeting on June 3, 2024 lacked a quorum and will be rescheduled.

Public Information

No Report

Security

No Report

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. The Daniel F Caruso Public Service Award will be presented to Mairead Painter at the June 26, 2024 Assembly meeting.
- b. The revised Probate Court Rules of Procedure will take effect on July 1, 2024. A PDF copy will be available online and the print copy will follow.
- c. The Judicial Branch, especially Judge Bozzuto and Justice Robinson, have been very supportive of our system and generous in sharing Judicial Branch training resources such as the upcoming situational awareness training.
- d. The PCA Communications and Intergovernmental Relations position remains vacant.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Darby raised the issue of summer Executive committee meetings and it was generally decided to cancel the August meeting.

He also raised the issue of the need to revise the Assembly By-laws. They were adopted prior to consolidation and need to be updated especially as they relate to the number of Executive Committee members.

Judge Darby also raised the issue of the challenges he faces in lack of available professional conservators to assist with the complicated needs of the conserved persons in our courts. The Judges shared experiences and suggestions on how to address improvements in this area.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

Judge Randich expressed his clerks concerns with information received at their last round table seminar. Judge Streit-Kefalas clarified the message intended to be conveyed to the clerks regarding the line between assisting the public without giving legal advice.

8. Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary