



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

July 10, 2024

9:45 a.m.

Office of the Probate Court Administrator

186 Newington Rd.

West Hartford, CT 06110

Attendees: Judges Berkenstock, Brandt, Ceneviva, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, 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 9:43 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of June 12, 2024, was made by Judge Jalowiec, seconded by Judge Brandt and approved.

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 last seminar on June 26, 2024 was well attended. The next seminar is on September 18, 2024 with the focus on children's matters. 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 afternoon program is being presented together with the Connecticut Bar Association. The Committee's next meeting is August 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the Committee's next meeting will be on September 19, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported the next Committee meeting is on November 7, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court but will likely be changed due to a conflict. She also shared that by all reports the next 2-year state budget cycle will be challenging.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

No Report. The next meeting is on August 19, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the East Haven-North Haven Probate Court.

Procedures Review

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

Public Information

No Report

Court Security

No Report

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. Updates on PCA staffing changes.
- b. The 2024 Edition of the Probate Court Rules of Procedure took effect on July 1, 2024. A PDF copy is available online and, in the June 18, 2024 edition of the Connecticut Law Journal. The print version will be available shortly.
- c. All courts are urged to review Policy 902 Court Security and Emergency Preparedness and meet with staff about these important issues, as well as conducting drills. Judges are reminded that useful checklists for emergency preparedness are contained in the policy.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Darby discussed the issue of security in the courts in light of budget prohibitions. The judges discussed how best to handle difficult situations and set the proper tone. Judge Streit-Kefalas encouraged all judges to take advantage of the education available in this area on the National Center for State Courts website. Judge Darby encouraged all judges with security concerns to join the Court Security Committee.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

8. Adjournment:

Judge Hoyle moved and Judge Lewis seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary