

**CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
August 11, 2021**

Attendees: Judges Becker, Berkenstock, Brandt, Darby, DeGennaro, Ganim, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, 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 11:06 A.M.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion was made by Judge Wright, seconded by Judge DeGennaro and carried to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of July 14, 2021 as presented. Judge Brandt 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 reported that the Committee did not meet in August and the next meeting is September 21, 2021. She also reported on the expected hours of ethics to be included in upcoming seminars which should satisfy the continuing education ethics requirement for attorneys.

Ethics

No Report

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Governor's emergency powers were extended to September 20 and there may be a special session if needed to extend these powers given the COVID-19 Delta variant now circulating.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

No Report

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the next meeting is September 13, 2021.

Public Information

No Report

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

Conservator Guidelines

No Report

Hospitality

Judge DeGennaro reported that a social event is planned after the Probate Assembly on September 14 at the Farmington Club.

Court Security

No Report

Floating Clerks

No Report

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

Judge Streit-Kefalas commented that the Executive Order waiving in-person hearings expired on July 20, 2021. She noted that the CDC and the CT Department of Public Health are now recommending mask wearing in indoor public places by everyone regardless of vaccination status. Courts should follow these mask recommendations and any mandates set by their municipality. She also noted that Governor has mandated vaccinations for all staff in nursing home facilities and that many employers are mandating vaccinations for employees.

Judge Streit-Kefalas announced that a staff attorney has been hired and will join Heather and Evan on August 27, 2021. She also announced with mixed emotions that Melissa Riley will be leaving PCA on August 17, 2021 having been offered a wonderful employment opportunity in intergovernmental relations in the health care sector. She spoke of all Melissa's accomplishments during her short time with the Probate Court system.

Melissa Riley expressed her appreciation and pleasure working with judges, court staff, and Probate Court Administrator's office.

Judge Streit-Kefalas asked judges to report if any marshals attempting service of process were being turned away at nursing homes. She noted that without proper service a court lacks jurisdiction to move forward on the matter before it.

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

Judge Brandt commented that his court has remained very busy throughout the summer. He noted that he recently had a hearing in which DAS had to abandon their lien as a result of the passage of Public Act 21-03. He congratulated and wished Melissa Riley good luck in her new venture and expressed his deep appreciation for all she has done for the Probate Courts.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is September 8, 2021 at 9:45 AM.

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

None

**8. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Judge Wright, seconded by Judge Becker and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham  
Recording Secretary