

**CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 8, 2021**

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Becker, Berkenstock, Brandt, Darby, DeGennaro, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Magistrali, Maxham, McGrath, Randich, Shad, Wright and also Probate Court Administrator Judge Streit-Kefalas and Chief Counsel Heather Dostaler.

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 9:47 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Judge DeGennaro, seconded by Judge Darby and carried to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of August 11, 2021 as presented.

3. Correspondence:

Judge Brandt reported that he had received no correspondence. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported she also had not received any correspondence.

4. Treasurer's Reports:

Judge Randich presented the Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year End (FYE) 06/30/2021 Budget Report showing one expenditure in the amount of \$313.69 which will be corrected to \$313.39. A motion was made by Judge Magistrali, seconded by Judge Wright and unanimously carried to approve the Fourth Quarter Report as adjusted. Judge Randich then presented the Year End Report for FYE 06/30/2021. A motion was made by Judge Magistrali, second by Judge Becker and unanimously carried to approve the Year End Report as adjusted in the same manner as the quarterly report.

5. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Becker reported that the in-person seminar set for September 14, 2021 will switch to a virtual event and will be held at the same time. She thanked PCA for all their help and hard work switching the seminar to a virtual format. It is hoped that we will be in-person for the October Judges Institute and November seminar. The next meeting of the Committee is 9/21/2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Ethics

Judge Magistrali is planning to hold a Committee meeting in October.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the only dynamic to report is that there will be a special session in September to address an extension of the Governor's emergency powers. She also reported that the Communications and Intergovernmental Relations position recently held by Melissa Riley has been posted and she is hopeful to fill it

before the commencement of the next legislative session.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

Judge Anthony and his Committee are seeking an assignment.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the next Committee meeting is set for Monday, September 13, 2021.

Public Information

Judge Brandt reported that the next Committee meeting is September 19, 2021.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Conservator Guidelines

No Report

Hospitality

No Report

Court Security

No Report

Floating Clerks

No Report.

6. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the recent hire by PCA of staff attorney, Eric H. Rothausser, who is eager to assist staff and Judges. His phone extension is 311.

Judge Beth Leamon has been sworn into office to replace Judge Kepple in the Southeastern CT Regional Probate Court due to his retirement. Judge Clebowicz from the Berlin Probate Court will reach the mandatory retirement age on October 17, 2021. A special election will be held to fill his seat in November.

The Department of Children and Families' access to eFiling is now statewide. The Office of the Attorney General's eFiling pilot program began in August and is progressing well. The Department of Developmental Services eFiling pilot has recently started. Judge Streit-Kefalas reminded judges that as the agencies are added, eFiling for them is mandatory.

She confirmed that the upcoming seminar will be virtual due to COVID-19 increases with Delta and the new variant Mu. The Assembly meeting will also be virtual and will follow the webinar for which a separate link will be sent to join the meeting.

Judge Streit-Kefalas asked the judges to share their positions on her recommendation for judges to mandate vaccines for court staff. The judges shared their opinions and concerns. She indicated that as each judge is the employer of his or her court staff, , each judge must make that decision.

7. Remarks of the President-Judge:

Judge Brandt ended the meeting on an encouraging note, indicating that despite the public health crisis, we have wonderful staff and courts and he enjoys working with all the judges. He is hopeful that we can return to normal in the near future. He thanked Judge Streit-Kefalas and the staff at PCA for their assistance in changing the seminar to virtual. He welcomes any questions or concerns by judges.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

9. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Judge Becker and seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham
Recording Secretary