



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee September 11, 2024 9:45 a.m.

Office of the Probate Court Administrator
186 Newington Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06110

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Brandt, Daly, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Marino, Maxham, McCaffrey, 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 9:47 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of July 10, 2024, was made by Judge Anthony, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and approved.

3. Correspondence:

Judges Darby and Streit-Kefalas reported no correspondence for the Executive Committee or Assembly.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Judge Randich reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter Report ending June 30, 2024. The Assembly stayed under budget for the fiscal year. Judge Marino moved and Judge Hoyle seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the next seminar is on September 18, 2024 with the focus on children's matters and an ethics component. LifeBridge will be presenting a program on trauma and secondary trauma. The afternoon program is being presented together with the Connecticut Bar Association as a Bench-Bar event including a joint presentation by a Juvenile Court Judge and a Probate Court Judge and a panel discussion with attorneys who practice in these courts. There will be a Judges Institute on October 23, 2024 with the 2024 legislation update and review of the new Probate Rules of Procedure. The committee's next meeting is October 16,

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 on December 4, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the PCA Library. [Note that meeting date was corrected by this secretary].

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported the next committee meeting has been changed to November 8, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Trumbull Probate Court.

Nominating

Judge Marino reported that with the retirement of Judge Calabrese, there is a vacancy on the Executive Committee for Litchfield County with a term date of April 2027.

Planning

Judge Anthony reported that the next meeting is on September 23, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the East Haven-North Haven Probate Court.

Procedures Review

Judge Darby shared Judge Berkenstock's report that the Committee met on September 9, 2024 and the next meeting is on December 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Public Information

No Report

Court Security

Judge Darby reported that Judge Hoyle has agreed to be committee Chair with the retirement of Judge Calabrese.

NCPJ

Judge McCaffrey reported that the next conference is in Alabama on November 13-17. Registration is now open. And the Spring 2025 conference will be in Mystic, Connecticut with 100% attendance encouraged. Retired judges may also attend.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. Evelyn Gonzalez will be reaching out to all committee chairs to set the dates for the 2025 meetings.
- b. Several courts have moved locations: Northeast Probate Court, Northeast

Regional Children's Probate Court, and Hartford Regional Children's Court.

- c. The Probate Rules of Procedure books are available and being distributed to all courts.
- d. Fall Clerks Roundtables commence on September 27, 2024. Judges and all court staff are encouraged to attend. It is a 3 hour session that fulfills half of the educational requirement for clerks and court staff.
- e. The Legislative session is already gearing up. PCA is meeting with stakeholders and preparing the next biennial budget. It is anticipated that the upcoming budget process will be challenging.
- f. There are special elections to be held November 5, 2024 in six Probate Districts.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Darby discussed the need to review the Bylaws of the Assembly. He and Judge Streit-Kefalas will set up a committee to update them. One area is the size of the Executive Committee.

Judge Darby also reminded all the next Assembly meeting next week on September 18, 2024. The afternoon is a joint bench/bar session.

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 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary