



## CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

### Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

October 9, 2024  
9:45 a.m.

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

Attendees: Judges Barrett, Brandt, Berkenstock, Ceneviva, Daly, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Maxham, McGrath and 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 9:45 a.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2024, was made by Judge Gardner Riordan, seconded by Judge Jalowiec and approved.

**3. Correspondence:**

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

**4. Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

Judge Gardner Riordan reported for Judge Lewis. The September 18, 2024 seminar was well attended and well received and resulted in one attorney accepting probate appointments. The next seminar is a Judges Institute on October 23, 2024 with a focus on competency to vote, legislative updates, the new Probate Rules of Procedure, and UCCJEA. The final seminar of the year is on November 20, 2024 with a focus on conservatorships. 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 is on December 4, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the PCA Library.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported the next Committee meeting is November 8, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court. Suggestions for new legislation will be reviewed at that time. Please submit all suggestions to Judges Fox, Rowe or PCA.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

Judge Brandt reported that the Committee recently met. The October meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting is on November 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the East Haven-North Haven Probate Court.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the next meeting is on December 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Public Information

The next Committee meeting is December 6, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the PCA Library.

Security

Judge Darby reported that Judge Hoyle has set the next meeting for December 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

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

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. The Honorable Raheem L. Mullins has been approved by the Judiciary Committee to serve as the interim Chief Justice with full approval to go before the legislature when it convenes in January 2025. In his testimony before the committee, he remarked on the importance of technology improvements from its eFiling system to its public website, with attention to ensuring access for the public. The Probate Court system has already been addressing many of these issues with current projects in progress to update the website and a redesign of CMS and cybersecurity upgrades.
- b. Cybersecurity is a critical concern for all systems, including ours. The IT Department is developing an awareness training program for all users. Please caution all staff on the policies surrounding proper use of email.
- c. The National Center for State Courts has many free educational resources that judges should consider.
- d. Court visits are being conducted. A few issues discovered are:
  - State marshals who are still serving facility administrators rather than in hand service to a respondent.
  - National attention on conservators continues with a large concern on lack of court oversight and attention to mandated reviews and accountings. Please ensure that the court staff is using the alert system with consistent follow up to obtain compliance by fiduciaries and court-appointed attorneys.
- e. The recently distributed 2024 Probate Court Rules of Procedure manuals will be

replaced by the publishers due to errors in publication.

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

Judge Darby complimented PCA with their assistance with training a new chief clerk in the Greater Manchester Probate Court. He discussed his frustration with challenges in finding individuals to serve as guardians and conservators in our court system. The judges shared their thoughts and frustrations as well.

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

None

**8. Adjournment:**

Judge Jalowiec moved and Judge Daly 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