

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2020

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Barrett, Berkenstock, Brandt, Calabrese, Daly, Darby, DeGennaro, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Magistrali, Maxham, McGrath, Rowe and Wright, and also Probate Court Administrator Judge Streit-Kefalas, Manager of Communications Melissa Riley, Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet.

1. Call to Order:

Due to the continued public health emergency, the meeting was held remotely via Cisco Webex video conferencing and was called to order at 10:05 AM.

A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED TO HONOR THE LIFE OF SUSAN SCOTTI. Judge Brandt reported that Judge Streit-Kefalas spoke at her memorial service of how much her work family will miss her.....

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Judge Gardner Riordan and seconded by Judge Wright to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of September 9, 2020 as presented. The motion passed with Judge Calabrese abstaining.

3. Correspondence:

No new correspondence was presented.

4. Treasurer's Report:

No report. Going forward Judge Brandt will only include a Treasurer's Report on the agenda on a quarterly basis.

5. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet reported that the upcoming webinars are scheduled for 10/15/2020-Indian Child Welfare Act; 10/22/2020-AM and PM roundtables by the PCA Law Department; 10/28/2020 Special Immigrant Juvenile Status with Judge Diane Yamin; 11/12/2020 at 1:00 PM Cultural Competency with Chief Justice Richard Robinson and 11/18/2020 on Capacity and Conservators with Dr. Harry Morgan. Judge Brandt encouraged all to attend as many Webex Events as possible.

Ethics

Judge Magistrali presented a Webex seminar on Ethics on September 16, 2020.

Legislative

Judge Rowe reported that the committee will be meeting via Webex on November 20, 2020 in the AM to discuss the upcoming legislative agenda. Session starts the first week of January.

Nominating

No Report.

Planning

No Report.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the committee met on October 5, 2020 and the next meeting is February 1, 2021 at 9:00 AM to allow time for the roll out of TurboCourt for state agencies.

Public Information

No Report.

Conservator Guidelines

No Report.

Court Security

No Report. Judge Calabrese reported the next meeting is the second Monday in November and the Committee will meet quarterly rather than every two months.

Floating Clerks

No Report.

Hospitality

No Report.

Modifications for Pandemic/Extraordinary Circumstances

Judge Brandt reported that this Committee will present a recommendation regarding modifications due to the pandemic at the next Executive Committee meeting in November.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas delivered a detailed report at the recent fall Assembly meeting. She did report that the recent legislative special session ended with no legislation enacted that impacts the probate system.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that Court revenue, although fluctuating, seems to be recovering with the filing of deferred estate tax returns. Additionally she is working with OPM on our upcoming 2 year budget and continues to meet with legislators and the legislative committee on the upcoming session. This session should be a repeat of what should have happened in the last session.

She thanked everyone for their expressions of condolences on the death of Sue Scotti and reported that Dana Masullo also recently lost her father.

Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Brandt commented that it has been a tough year and tough last few weeks. We all mourn the loss of Sue Scotti. He encouraged all to keep working and be positive and keep their heads up. We are doing a good job running the Probate Courts.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None.

8. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Judge Wright seconded by Judge Rowe and unanimously approved. The meeting ended at 10:21 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham
Recording Secretary