



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the **Executive Committee**

November 08, 2023

9:45 a.m.

Office of the Probate Court Administrator

186 Newington Rd.

West Hartford, CT 06110

Attendees: Judges Brandt, Berkenstock, Daly, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, McCaffrey, Osterndorf and also present: Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas and Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Daly called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2023 meeting was made by Judge Brandt, seconded by Judge Darby, and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

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

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the committee met on October 18, 2023. The last seminar of this year is the joint CBA/Probate Assembly seminar on November 14th at the Aqua Turf. Topics to be covered are Capacity, Accountings, Elder Abuse, Trust Modification and Fiduciary and Attorney Fees. The Committee's next meeting will be on December 20, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. The committee will be disseminating some ethics opinions on artificial intelligence. The next meeting is December 7, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the next meeting is December 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court. Please submit all suggestions to PCA or the committee

chairs. The key issues this session is reinstatement of name change filling fee and securing the full appropriation for the upcoming fiscal year.

Nominating

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that Judge Marino has again accepted serving as chair of the committee. Judges Norris and Peoples are new members on the Committee.

Planning

On behalf of Chair Judge Anthony, Judge Hoyle reported that the Committee met on November 6, 2023. The committee discussed compiling bench guidelines for remote and in-person hearings. The next meeting is on January 22, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the East Haven-North Haven Probate Court.

Procedures Review

No Report. The next meeting is December 4, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Public Information

No Report. The next meeting is December 1, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in the PCA Library.

Court Security

No Report.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. There are only 21 courts who have submitted updated facility security assessments in the last 5 years. PCA needs more data from the courts to engage in conversations with legislators about security issues. The reports should be sent to her or Cindy confidentially. At a minimum each court should have a panic button installed. All judges should review the Policy Manual on safety in the courts. Fire and other emergency preparation drills should also be conducted periodically.
- b. PCA has begun outreach to build a bench of attorneys who will accept court appointments. Let PCA know of local bar associations they can contact. The lack of compensation for non-family guardians of adults with intellectual disabilities was discussed by the committee.
- c. The Probate Court Budget Committee is meeting on December 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the PCA Library. Office budgets and COLA are usually on the agenda. All are welcome to attend.
- d. The Advisory Committee on the Probate Court Rules of Procedure has been meeting regularly and will be finalizing and revising the Rules of Procedure. A public hearing will likely be set for January 2024. The effective date of the proposed revisions will be July 1, 2024.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Daly commented on her concern for respect for the probate judiciary. The judges discussed various ways they garner respect from parties. Judge Lewis indicated that the Continuing Ed Committee will be presenting a seminar on this topic in the upcoming year.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None.

8. Adjournment:

Judge Darby moved and Judge Brandt seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary