

Regular Meeting of the  
**Executive Committee**

**Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

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

This meeting will be conducted in-person and by Cisco WebEx Videoconference.  
For connection information, please call 860-231-2442

**MINUTES**

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Becker, Berkenstock, Blick, Brandt, Darby, Gardner Riordan, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, McGrath, Randich, Rowe, Wright and also Probate Court Administrator Judge Streit-Kefalas, Chief Counsel Heather Dostaler and Manager of Communications Jim Polites.

**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 9:48 a.m.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

A motion was made by Judge Barrett, seconded by Judge Darby and carried to accept the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of October 20, 2021 as presented. Judge Blick abstained.

**3. Correspondence:**

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

**4. Committee Reports:**

**Continuing Education**

Judge Becker reported that the committee met on November 9. At least half of 2022 has been planned with venues reserved for in-person seminars. The last program for 2021 is the joint webinar with the CT Bar Association on Tuesday, November 16. That program is now open to all probate staff.

**Ethics**

Judge Brandt reported for Judge Magistrali. The Committee met on October 20<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Committee drafted a proposal to add Comment 5 to Rule 3.1 of the Code of Probate Judicial Conduct regarding extra judicial activities on social media. Judge Brandt read the proposal to the members. The proposal will be presented at the next Assembly meeting in January 2022 for a vote. Judge Streit-Kefalas will circulate the written rule to the Executive Committee for review.

### **Legislative**

Judge Rowe reported that the next Committee meeting will be Monday, December 6, 2021. The upcoming legislative session will run from early February through early May 2022. Please alert the Committee of any legislative issue. This session usually only deals with fiscal matters, but other matters can be presented.

### **Nominating**

Judge Darby presented the following list of proposed nominations to be made at the January 26, 2022 Assembly meeting:

#### **OFFICERS:**

Term: 2022 - 2023

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • President-Judge             | HONORABLE EVELYN M. DALY     |
| • First Vice President-Judge  | HONORABLE MICHAEL M. DARBY   |
| • Second Vice President-Judge | HONORABLE LEAH P. SCHAD      |
| • Executive Secretary         | HONORABLE PETER C. BARRETT   |
| • Recording Secretary         | HONORABLE KATHLEEN N. MAXHAM |
| • Treasurer                   | HONORABLE ROBERT A. RANDICH  |

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Term: 2022-2025

- |              |                                 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| • New London | HONORABLE JEFFREY A. MCNAMARA   |
| • New Haven  | HONORABLE PHILIP A. WRIGHT, JR. |
| • At Large   | HONORABLE SCOTT R. CHADWICK     |

#### **BUDGET COMMITTEE:**

Term: 2022-2024

HONORABLE PHILIP A. WRIGHT, JR.

### **Planning**

Judge Anthony respectfully indicated he had no report.

### **Procedures Review**

Judge Berkenstock reported that the Committee met on November 1, 2021 and it continues to review forms. The next meeting is February 7, 2022.

### **Public Information**

Judge Blick reported that the next Committee meeting is November 23, 2021, at which time the brochures will be reviewed and if there are no changes, they will be available for distribution to all courts.

### **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

#### **Conservator Guidelines**

No Report

#### **Hospitality**

No Report

### **Court Security**

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Committee did not reach a quorum for their last meeting on November 8, 2021. She encouraged all judges to complete the court security assessment and submit reports to PCA.

### **Floating Clerks**

No Report.

#### **5. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator:**

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that she was cautiously optimistic with a recent report of a projected state budget surplus from the State Comptroller.

She encouraged all judges to implement a written policy regarding a vaccine mandate. Judges cannot impose a requirement on a new hire unless the court has already adopted a vaccine policy.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that Jim Polites is settling in and will be tackling our press reports. She encouraged judges to let him know what we need to focus on in the news arena. She encouraged judges to make submissions to the Probate Press.

The recent probate judge elections have not yet been certified but it appears that Michael Carrier for Berlin Probate Court and Ben Gettinger for Milford-Orange Probate Court will be taking office. They are both engaged in the mandatory training.

#### **6. Remarks of the President-Judge:**

Judge Brandt thanked Evelyn Gonzalez for sending out the comprehensive save the date email for all meetings through the end of 2021. He also pointed out that there is a calendar on the intranet with all meeting information. He congratulated the newly elected judges and noted that next year is an election year for all the judges. Since politics do play a part in judges' campaigns, we will be reviewing campaign ethics at the January Judges Institute.

Judge Brandt reminded the judges to encourage staff to register for FSA benefits. He reminded all to try to attend the webinar next week and wished all a happy and enjoyable Thanksgiving and upcoming holidays.

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

None

#### **8. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Judge Becker and seconded by Judge Wright and unanimously approved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham  
Recording Secretary