



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

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

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

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Brandt, Ceneviva, Daly, Darby, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, Marino, McCaffrey and Randich, Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler and Probate Court Administrator Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Darby called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2024, was made by Judge Lewis and seconded by Judge Hoyle and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

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

**4. Agenda Item No. 4 Nomination Committee was heard after Committee Reports:
Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the Judges Institute on November 20, 2024 was well attended and included the recently elected judges. The next seminar is the Judges Institute on January 22, 2025 at Central Connecticut State University. Topics will include the Uniform Trust Decanting Act, medical evidence and evaluations in conservatorships and a panel of judges on cases of interest. The committee's next meeting is December 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the committee met on December 4, 2024. The members discussed artificial intelligence amongst other ethical matters. The committee plans to give a 1- or 2-hour ethics presentation at an upcoming seminar. The Council on Probate Judicial Conduct may also give a future presentation to the assembly.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that Attorney Brunetti, Judges T.R. Rowe and Fox, and she are engaged in the legislative process and in touch with legislators.

The most significant issue for the upcoming session will be the state's biennial budget for FY26 and FY27 and the Probate Court system request is \$16M for FY26 and \$18.2M for FY27. It is already reported that the budget will be challenging, and all judges will be needed to engage with their representatives to push the budget approval.

Planning

Judge Anthony reported that Committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. The next meeting is on January 15, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

Procedures Review

Judge Darby shared Judge Berkenstock's written report that the Committee met December 2, 2024 and reviewed several forms. The next meeting will be March 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Public Information

Judge Brandt reported that the committee met on December 6, 2024 and discussed creating a template for a newsletter for judges wishing to utilizing the format for reaching out to the public.

Court Security

Judge Hoyle reported that the committee has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting, and the next meeting will be in January 2025.

5. Nominating Committee:

Judge Marino, Chair of the Nominating Committee presented nominations to fill two positions on the Executive Committee: Judge James Steck, Torrington Probate Judge as Litchfield County representative to complete the term of Judge Calabrese, now retired and Judge Ariana Ceneviva, Meriden Probate Judge as Recording Secretary which will be vacant on January 3, 2025 with the impending retirement of Judge Maxham whose term as recording secretary will end on April 23, 2025. Judge Fred Anthony moved to appoint Judge Steck to fill the Litchfield County vacancy and complete the term that ends in April 2027. The motion was seconded by Judge Michael R. Brandt and passed unanimously.

Judge Clifford Hoyle moved to appoint Judge Ceneviva to fill the vacancy as of January 3, 2025 and complete the term through April 23, 2025 for the position as Recording Secretary which motion was seconded by Judge Brandt and passed by unanimous vote.

Judge Marino also shared the proposed slate of nominees that will be presented at the January 22, 2025 Probate Assembly meeting:

OFFICERS:

Term: 04/2025-04/2026

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • President-Judge | HONORABLE MICHAEL M. DARBY |
| • First Vice President-Judge | HONORABLE PETER C. BARRETT |
| • Second Vice President-Judge | HONORABLE MATTHEW J. JALOWIEC |
| • Executive Secretary | HONORABLE ARIANA F. CENEVIVA |
| • Recording Secretary | HONORABLE ARIANA F. CENEVIVA |
| • Treasurer | HONORABLE ROBERT A. RANDICH |

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Term: 04/2025- 04/2028

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| • New London County | HONORABLE CHARLES K. NORRIS |
| • New Haven County | HONORABLE CLIFFORD P. HOYLE |
| • At Large | HONORABLE CAROLINE L. MCCAFFREY |

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Term: 04/2025-04/2027

HONORABLE FRED J. ANTHONY

COUNCIL ON PROBATE JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Term: 10/01/2025-09/30/2029

HONORABLE ELISA H. BARTLETT
HONORABLE FRED J. ANTHONY, Alternate

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. The Office of the Child Advocate is preparing its report as required by section 12 of P.A. 24-118 An Act Concerning Child Sexual Abuse.
- b. The Task Force created under section 11 of that act has not yet been formed.
- c. The CMS redesign is progressing well with the engagement of staff of 20 courts participating in its development.
- d. The ctprobate.gov website is also under redevelopment with an anticipated launch in early 2025 with a modern user-friendly format.
- e. FY24 Weighted Workload numbers have been finalized.
- f. The Probate Court Budget Committee met on December 4, 2024 and approved a 3% COLA for staff to be reflected in the January 9, 2025 paycheck.
- g. PCA has hired Attorney Zachary King as PCA's new staff attorney.

7. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Darby spoke to the value of the NCPJ conferences. He encouraged all judges to attend the conference in Mystic, CT on May 6-9, 2025. He discussed the possibility of hosting a reception at the event.

Judge Darby wished everyone happy holidays.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

9. Adjournment:

Judge Hoyle moved and Judge Daly seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary