

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2019

Attendees: Judges Wright, Riordan, Randich, Becker, Mahon, Darby, Magistrali, Streit-Kefalas, Forgione, Calabrese, Blick, Schad, Greene, Probate Court Administrator Knierim and Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:49 a.m.
2. **Approval of the Minutes:**
The minutes from the March 13, 2019 meeting were approved.
3. **Correspondence:** None.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** The report was approved as submitted. Judge Magistrali presented a proposed budget for FY20 for \$35,000, identical to the FY19 budget. The Committee approved the proposed budget and it will be presented to the full assembly.
5. **Committee Reports:**
 - Continuing Education
Judge Becker reported that the next program is on June 13 and it will have a one hour ethics component.
 - Ethics
Judge Magistrali plans to raise the topic of amendments to the Code regarding social media issues to the committee.
 - Legislative
Judge Knierim reported that the Probate Court Operations bill, the bill to reduce the number of psychiatric evaluations for commitment hearings and the Uniform Trust Code are all out of committee.
Judge Knierim met with the new OPM Secretary and reported it was a positive meeting. He encourages all to keep speaking to their legislators.
 - Nominating
No report.
 - Planning
Judge Forgione reported that the committee will be meeting following the end of the legislative session.
 - Procedures Review
No report.
 - Public Information
No report.
 - Hospitality
Judge Yamin reported via email that the next NCPJ meeting is in New Orleans from May 14-17. The fall meeting will be held in Philadelphia on November 13-16.
 - Conservatorship Guidelines
No report.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator

Judge Knierim invited Judges Greene and Calabrese to speak to the Committee regarding their use of CourtCall, a system which allows parties to appear through video at hearings. CourtCall is currently set up in four courts.

Judge Greene spoke positively about his experience with the system. CourtCall provides all the necessary equipment and technical support at no cost to the probate system. The cost to participants is \$65 for audio access and \$75 for video; up to 8 participants can participate remotely. CourtCall does not deal with incarcerated individuals.

Judge Greene has used the system a couple dozen times successfully. He finds it easy to use and very professional. Judge Calabrese has the system but has not had the opportunity to use it.

There was discussion over various practices that courts follow when allowing participation by phone. There was also discussion on whether we should develop standards for courts to use CourtCall and which courts are interested in using the technology. The consensus was to provide the service to any court that wants it and then convene those judges to discuss possible procedures.

Judge Knierim and Andrea King provided an overview of the proposed budgets for FY20 and FY21. The proposed budgets will be submitted by May 15 to the Chief Court Administrator.

The presentation started with a recap of the initiatives of the FY19 budget. So far, revenues for FY19 have been stronger than expected. Judge Knierim expects that \$2.6 million will be needed from the fund balance. The FY20 and FY21 proposed budget summaries showed the levels of funding requested from the State. There are three main drivers of the increases in expenses; compensation, IT expenditures and indigency expenses. The Committee voted to endorse the proposed budget.

Financial statements are due from all judges by April 15th. Performance evaluations are due by May 31st.

7. Comments of the President-Judge – No comments.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee

Judge Forgione raised the concern over the aging of guardians of the intellectually disabled. He suggested a contract guardian program similar to the contract conservator program. Judge Streit-Kefalas suggested that efforts be made to strengthen the partnership between the CBA pro bono program and the courts.

9. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Leah Schad
Recording Secretary