

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 10, 2019

Attendees: Judges Wright, Becker, Fox, Riordan, Randich, DeGennaro, Darby, Streit-Kefalas, Barrett, Calabrese, Forgione, Magistrali, Probate Court Administrator Knierim and Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.
- 2. Approval of the Minutes:**
The minutes from the June 12, 2019 meeting were approved.
- 3. Correspondence:** None.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's year end budget report for FY 2018-2019 was submitted and approved.

5. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Becker reported that the Committee will meet today. The next program will be in September and will cover children's matters. There will be a joint program with the CBA in November and a committee comprised of lawyers and members of the Continuing Education Committee has been meeting and planning that program which will include the new Trust Code, conservator standards and e-filing.

Ethics

No report.

Legislative

Judge Fox reported that the probate operations bill had passed. The bill to reduce the number of psychiatrists needed for commitments did not pass but will likely move forward in the next session when there is time to educate legislators about the particulars of that proposal.

Nominating

No report.

Planning

No report.

Procedures Review

No report.

Public Information

No report.

Hospitality

Judge Wright noted that a new Chairperson is needed for this Committee and he has had discussions with one person.

Conservatorship Guidelines

No report.

Statistics

No report.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator

Judge Knierim reported that Judge Beverly Streit-Kefalas will be appointed as the new Probate Court Administrator and offered his congratulations.

Judge Knierim reviewed the proposed changes to the Probate Court Regulations 10, 13, 14, and 16. The changes to Regulation 13 include eliminating the bifurcated rate structure for attorneys and substituting a blended rate of \$58 per hour and eliminating the caps. The changes to Regulation 16 include increasing the conservator rates, keeping caps but increasing the amounts by 20%. The prohibition on compensation for conservators is expanded to include a domestic partner of the person under conservatorship. There was discussion about adding language to ascertain this information on the CO-17. There was a discussion of the use of PDF vs. the online tools for reporting attorney time. For now, both methods will be retained. A change to Regulation 14 is purely technical to add a new statutory citation. Regulation 10 will require that paper copies must be printed off of efiled documents for the court file. There was a discussion of “going paperless,” however, for now a paper copy is still required.

The proposed changes were approved. They will now be submitted to the General Assembly Judiciary Committee. If no action within 30 days, the changes are approved. They become effective January 1, 2020.

7. Comments of the President-Judge – Judge Wright also congratulates Judge Streit-Kefalas and notes that she will be the first woman to serve as Probate Court Administrator.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee

None.

9. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Next meeting August 7, 2019 at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Barbara Gardner Riordan
Acting Recording Secretary