



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

March 12, 2025

9:45 a.m.

Office of the Probate Court Administrator

186 Newington Rd.

West Hartford, CT 06110

Attendees: Judges Barrett, Berkenstock, Ceneviva, Daly, Darby, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Marino, McCaffrey, McGrath, Randich and Steck. Also present: PCA Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler and Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit

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 the December 11, 2024 meeting was made by Judge Hoyle and seconded by Judge Marino and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting was made by Judge McCaffrey and seconded by Judge Marino and unanimously approved.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2025 meeting was made by Judge Steck and seconded by Judge McGrath and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

None.

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Daly reported for the chair: The next Judges Institute will be on March 13th and will include a panel discussion on ethics by probate judges; the Annual Case Law Review by Prof. Cooper and Attorney Ivimey; a presentation by Judge Birney on business interests and organizational structures; and a panel on medical and legal bioethics. The next committee meeting is April 16, 2025 at PCA.

Ethics

Judge Hoyle reported for the chair that the committee has been preparing for their panel presentation for tomorrow.

Legislative

Judge Streit reported that the session is in full swing. Judge Daly testified in January on a bill involving ECT. Judge Streit presented to the Appropriations

Committee for the Probate Court system's budget requests of \$16 million for FY26 and \$18.2 million for FY27. That evening Judges Wexler, Norris, and Darby testified at the public hearing on the Probate Court appropriations request. Judge Streit has testified on a number of other bills that would affect probate courts, most recently on the Child Advocate's bill. PCA is working collaboratively with DDS to modify who may petition to manage finances for persons under guardianship. And the Probate Court Operations ("Ops") bill has recently been raised by the Judiciary Committee which is the first step toward a public hearing.

Nominating

Judge Marino reported that the slate of officers was approved at the January Assembly meeting and will be voted on at the Annual meeting on April 23, 2025.

Planning

The next meeting is on March 19, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at PCA.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that they had a productive meeting on March 3. The next meeting will be on June 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Public Information

No report

Court Security

Judge Hoyle reported that there is no new information, and the next meeting is May 5, 2025 at 10 a.m. at PCA.

NCPJ

Judge McCaffrey reported that the upcoming NCPJ Conference in Mystic is May 6-9. There will be an opening reception on Tuesday, May 6 and a banquet dinner on Thursday, May 8, 2025. All are strongly encouraged to attend the conference.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit reported on the following:

- Office of the Child Advocate Report released last week
- Probate Court Budget: Our request is for \$16 million for FY26 (year 1 of the biennium budget) and \$18.2 million for FY27 (year 2 of the biennium budget). The Governor proposes \$13.3 million for year 1 with a sweep suspension and the same amount for year 2 with no suspension. Year 2 will be a significant shortfall in our funding need.
- The new federal cuts are impacting many states non-profit service providers and the demands on state resources are even greater.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Darby shared that he participated in a training session at the DCF Workforce Academy that included both Family Specialists and DCF probate workers and supervisors. The training was very useful.

He also remarked on the audio recording of children's matters with most judge's present noting they do not record such proceedings.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

8. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Judge Jalowiec and seconded by Judge Daly. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Ariana F. Ceneviva, Executive/Recording Secretary