**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**October 9, 2019**

Attendees: Judges Wright, Riordan, Forgione, Darby, Berkenstock, Brandt, McNamara, Calabrese, Schad, Probate Court Administrator Streit-Kefalas, and Chief Counsel Bonnie Bennet.

1. **Call to Order**: The meeting was called to order at 9:57 a.m.
2. **Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes from the September 11, 2019 meeting were approved.

1. **Correspondence:** None.
2. **Treasurer’s Report:** The current budget report was approved. Several judges made positive comments regarding the facility in Wallingford where the last Probate Assembly meeting was held.
3. **Committee Reports:**

Continuing Education

No report.

Ethics

No report.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas encouraged all to present any ideas for legislative change to Jason Bowsza. As to the upcoming session, the CBA Estates and Probate Section has shared that it will be proposing legislation to eliminate the gift tax. PCA typically takes no position on such issues but does provide potential impacts of the change.

Judge Forgione raised the issue of allowing non relative guardians to be able to give a child in adoption to themselves without having to appoint a statutory parent. Other legislative proposals will be reviewed at the upcoming committee meeting.

Nominating

No report.

Planning

The next meeting is October 21, 2019.

Procedures Review

The committee is on hiatus until February because of the eFiling rollout.

Public Information

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that Judge Blick and the committee are working on updating handouts and presentation panels, with a focus on the growing number and diversity of our cases.

Hospitality

Judge Wright reported that Judge DeGennaro plans to hold two events a year: one for judges and one for judges and staff.

Conservatorship Guidelines

No report.

Court Security

Judge Calabrese reported that the next meeting is in a few weeks. He is hoping to focus on developing suggestions for judges and court staff on security issues. Judge Streit-Kefalas suggested it is time to re-visit system-wide security training.

Judge Forgione inquired about compliance with the new sexual harassment training requirements. Bonnie Bennett has sent an email to all with information on the training. She will be sending another concerning the certification process. Basically all employees must comply with the two-hour training requirement.

1. **Comments of the Probate Court Administrator**

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that eFiling is on track for a system-wide rollout in January. Eleven pilot courts are up and running and there has been positive feedback from clerks and practitioners. A series of roundtables for clerks has been scheduled; all clerks should be encouraged to attend.

It is not mandatory that state agencies eFile, but there is ongoing discussions about the matter.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the search to replace Andrea King is ongoing.

Judges are encouraged to let conservators know that there is an audit process and that their accounts could be subject to audit. Finally, contract conservators are required to complete the online conservator training. A Spanish version should be available by the end of the month.

Judge Streit-Kefalas will be sworn in on October 30, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Supreme Court Courtroom.

1. **Comments of the President-Judge** – No comments.
2. **Other Business to come before the Executive Committee**

Judge Calabrese recognized that Judge Streit-Kefalas gave a very well-received presentation at the CBA Estates and Probate section meeting.

Judge Wright inquired about the Uniform Trust Act. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Act will be addressed at the next Judges’ Institute and at the joint CBA/Probate meeting in November.

1. **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Leah Schad

Recording Secretary