



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting October 25, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Judge Darby at 1:15 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of the Judges

37 Judges were present in Connecticut Room in Memorial Hall at Central Connecticut State University for the meeting. In addition, Probate Court Administrator Judge Streit-Kefalas, Attorneys Heather Dostaler, Evan Brunetti and Eric Rothouser also attended.

3. Approval of the April 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Judge DeMoura moved and Judge Barrett seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2023 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Reports

Judge Randich reviewed the Year End Budget Report for FYE June 30, 2023 and the First Quarter Report for the quarter ending September 30, 2023. He noted that the Assembly returned only \$21.76 due to the seminar expenses and awards and recognitions for many retiring judges. He expects this fiscal year budget to be sufficient due to decreased seminar costs. Judge Burt made a motion to approve the Year End Budget and First Quarter Budget as presented. Judge Fox seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

5. Continuing Education

Judge Jeannine Lewis reported the committee last met on October 15, 2023. The last program of the year is the joint bench/bar seminar scheduled at the Aqua Turf on November 14, 2023. The agenda includes Dr Morgan speaking on capacity; elder abuse and exploitation; trust modification; and fiduciary and attorney fees. An attorney and judge will present each topic. The Committee is looking for 100% judge attendance. The next committee meeting is December 20, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the next Committee meeting is December 7, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library. The committee has sent out an email on campaign ethics.

Legislative

Judge Fox reported that the next Legislative committee meeting is on December 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court. The upcoming legislative session is a short session beginning in early February 2024. Please send any suggestions to Judges Fox, T.R. Rowe or Beverly Streit-Kefalas.

Planning Committee

Judge Anthony reported that the next committee meeting is on November 6, 2023 at the East Haven-North Haven Probate Court.

Public Information

No Report.

Procedures Review

No Report

Court Security

No report

NCPJ

Judge McCaffrey indicated that she is the new Connecticut representative to the NCPJ. She encouraged all to attend the next conference in Tampa, FL beginning on November 15, 2023.

6. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator

Judge Streit-Kefalas thanked the Continuing Education Committee for their hard work on the programs presented and encouraged attendees to complete the evaluation forms.

She encouraged all Courts to complete their security reviews. If any judge needs assistance, please reach out to PCA or the committee. Additionally, she thanked Judge Deneen and Attorney Brunetti for participating in the CBA Young Lawyers Section Pro Bono Fair encouraging young attorneys to volunteer in our courts.

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

PCA is already engaged with key legislators about the upcoming short session. Two important topics are the restoration of the filing fee on name change petitions and the need to fully fund our requested appropriation. General fund appropriations is important as the enactment of the health insurance parity bill and elimination of filing fees on name changes will have significant financial impact. With the historic volatility of probate fee revenue, and the goal of consistent staff compensation adjustments, normalized appropriations is important. She asked all to reach out to their legislators about the funding issues.

The Budget Committee is slated to meet on December 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the PCA Library.

7. Remarks of the President-Judge

Judge Darby had no remarks from Judge Daly.

8. Other business to come before the Assembly

None

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Judge Randich and seconded by Judge DeGennaro. The motion carried and the Assembly adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham
Recording Secretary