



## CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING November 20, 2024**

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Judge Darby at 12:26 p.m.

#### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Judge Shepard lead the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Roll call of the Judges**

48 judges were present at the meeting.

Judge Darby introduced the recently elected judges who were in attendance:

District 15 -Phrances Leverton Szewczyk

District 22 -David Labriola

District 25 -Sophia H. Shaikh

District 37- Michael Dolan

District 28- George A. Baker

District 49- Katherine E. Caulfield

#### **3. Approval of the September 18, 2024 Probate Assembly Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Judge DeMoura and seconded by Judge Shepard to approve of the minutes of the last Assembly meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

A motion was made by Judge Gardner Riordan and seconded by Judge Marino and unanimously carried to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

##### **Continuing Education**

Judge Lewis thanked all the presenter judges. She reflected that this past year was very productive for this committee. She encouraged all newly elected judges to consider joining the committee. The committee's next meeting is December 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library. All suggestions for educational topics are welcome.

##### **Ethics**

Judge Brandt reported that the next Committee meeting is on December 4, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the PCA Library

### **Legislative**

Judge Fox reported that the Committee met on November 8, 2024 and discussed and voted on legislative concepts to be included in the Probate Court Ops bill. The next legislative session is a long session and starts in January. Please send any suggestions for proposed legislation to Judges Fox and T.R. Rowe or PCA.

### **Planning Committee**

No report.

### **Procedures Review Committee**

Judge Berkenstock welcomed all new judges and explained the work of the committee also known as the Forms committee. She reported that committee had a very productive meeting on September 9, 2024 and encouraged anyone interested to join the committee. The next meeting is on December 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA library.

### **Public Information**

Judge Wexler reported that the committee had not met recently. She encouraged the new judges to join and explained the role of the committee and resources available to judges when presenting to the public.

### **Court Security**

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that the Committee is currently reviewing the survey results. PCA is researching updated security cameras for all courts in public waiting areas.

### **NCPJ**

Judge McCaffrey explained the purpose of the organization and encouraged all to attend the May 2025 conference in Mystic, CT. Judge Anthony also spoke about the value of the organization to the Assembly members.

## **6. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator**

Judge Streit-Kefalas congratulated all the newly elected judges who have already had 2 educational sessions. She thanked the recording secretary who will be retiring before the next Assembly meeting

She reported the following:

- a. CMS is in a 2-year redesign project that is moving along well due to input of the court staff of 20 courts who are participating.
- b. The public facing website that is 10 years old will be receiving an update as well.
- c. The legislative work is already under way. Leadership positions are being assigned and PCA is engaging in state budget conversations.
- d. During the Legislative Committee meeting members discussed the lack of suitable individuals to become a guardian of an adult with intellectual

- e. disability. Please let PCA know any occurrences of this situation. The information is important to help craft a solution.
- f. The Commission on Judicial Compensation recently heard Chief Justice Raheem Mullins' presentation and proposal regarding judicial salaries. The Commission reports to the legislature by January 2, 2025 with its recommendations.
- g. Please attend the December CAPC meeting on December 4, 2024 in Cromwell to support our staff.

**7. Remarks of the President-Judge**

Judge Darby encouraged all judges to report to PCA any difficulties in finding individuals to serve as guardians for adults with intellectual disability.

He welcomed the newly elected judges and encouraged them to use other judges as resources. He advised new judges to make prompt decisions and not to get overwhelmed by any matters.

**8. Other business to come before the Assembly**

Judge Shepard reported of the untimely death of Attorney Shawn Yost at age 51. There will be a Celebration of Life at the Connecticut Valley Brewery in South Windsor on November 24, 2024 from 3:30-6:00 p.m. Attorney Yost was active in our courts.

**9. Adjournment**

Judge Brandt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Judge Ceneviva and unanimously carried. The Assembly adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham  
Recording Secretary