

CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY MEETING June 22, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Judge Darby at 12:32 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Judge Darby asked Judge Forgione to lead the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of the Judges

Thirty-seven judges were present at The Farmington Club 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 January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 26, 2022 meeting were approved on April 20, 2022. The approval of the minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting was deferred to the next meeting of the Assembly.

4. Committee Reports

Continuing Education

No Report

Ethics

No Report

Legislative

No Report

Nominating

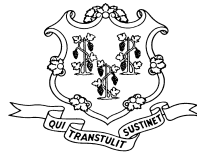
No Report

Planning Committee

No Report

Procedures Review Committee

No Report. Judge Berkenstock indicated that the Committee will not meet until September.



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Public Information

No Report

Conservatorship Guidelines

No Report

Court Security

No Report

Floating Clerks

Judge Berkenstock indicated that this ad hoc Committee has completed its purpose and is dissolved.

Hospitality

The Assembly is hosting an ice cream social immediately following the seminar.

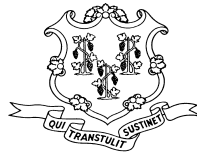
5. Remarks of the Probate Court Administrator

She congratulated all officers elected at the Annual Meeting and thanked them for their service. She also thanked the Probate Court staff for their two and one-half years of service in weathering all the system's transitions in this enduring public health emergency. Although COVID is still here, the staff continue to be the backbone of the system to make sure the needs of the public are met. The Budget Committee was pleased to authorize merit increases and the one-time bonus.

The legislative session ended without a special session. For the first time, the general fund appropriation was retained by the legislators without any proposed adjustment by the governor. Legislators are aware of the good work of the Probate Courts.

She reported that the printed books of the Probate Court Rules of Procedure effective July 1, 2022 are available to distribute to the courts. The most significant change is Rule 66 regarding electronic participation in a hearing. Judges must balance all factors to ensure access to justice by all parties. If electronic means of participating in a hearing is appropriate under the rules, then the best practice is to use the videoconferencing features of Webex rather than just audio.

She announced that PCA will be implementing enhanced capabilities to conduct hybrid hearings in the coming months.



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6. Remarks of the President-Judge

Judge Darby spoke about the recent CT Supreme Court decision regarding remote hearings and children's matters. He indicated that recently he tested the hybrid system and it was very successful.

Judge Darby indicated that Judge Daly asked him to report that she echoed the Probate Administrator's thoughts on bonuses. Staff is well deserving of them. Her goal during her term is to elevate the public's view of Probate Courts. Please contact her with any questions and ideas.

7. Any business to come before the Assembly

Judge Yamin thanked Judge Streit-Kefalas for her support of NCPJ and indicated that the Connecticut judges are almost at 100% membership. Judge Yamin will become President at the November conference. Save the date for the fall conference in Destin, FL from November 15-18 where she will be installed as President. She encouraged all to register and attend.

8. Adjourn

A motion was made by Judge Wright, seconded by Judge DeGennaro, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham
Recording Secretary