



## CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 23, 2025**

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Judge Darby at 11:01 a.m.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

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

37 judges were present at the meeting.

#### **Remarks of Chief Justice of the CT Supreme Court**

The Honorable Raheem L. Mullins, Chief Justice of Connecticut Supreme Court provided welcome remarks to the Assembly. He highlighted the great work done by our Probate Court system, including that in fiscal year 2024 we handled over 110,000 petitions. He closed his remarks with a comment that we continue to “deliver light during a very dark time” in people’s lives.

#### **Approval of the January 22, 2025 Probate Assembly Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Judge Hoyle and seconded by Judge DeGennaro to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2025 Assembly meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Treasurer’s Report and Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026**

Judge Randich, Treasurer, presented his Report of the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025. A motion was made by Judge Lewis and seconded by Judge Hoyle and unanimously carried to approve the treasurer’s report as presented.

Judge Randich then presented the proposed Annual Budget of the Assembly for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026. By motion made by Judge Lewis and seconded by Judge Daly, the proposed budget was unanimously approved.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Continuing Education**

Judge Lewis thanked the committee members with a special thank you to two (2) Committee members who have since retired, Judges Barbara Gardner Riordan and Dominick Calabrese. She indicated that the committee meets every other month in the PCA library and the next meeting would be June 18, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. All suggestions for educational topics and new members are welcome. Additionally, the next seminar is on June 25, 2025.

### **Ethics**

Judge Brandt, Chair, reported that the committee continues to share decisions reported by the National Center for State Courts to provide guidance to judges on judicial ethics. He thanked all committee members with special thanks to retired Judge Barbara Gardner Riordan and to Judge McGrath, who will be retiring in June. He reported that the next committee meeting is on June 12, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. in the PCA Library.

### **Legislative**

Judges Fox and T.R. Rowe, Co-Chairs of the Legislative Committee, reported on legislative matters. They indicated that it is a big year as it is a long session in the legislature and the session is not over for another six weeks. The committee is focused on the Probate Court system's budget as we have asked that our budget be funded at \$16 million this year and \$18.2 million next year; the governor is proposing \$13.3 million for the next two (2) years. The Co-Chairs also thanked the current and retired committee members. Lastly, the Co-Chairs pointed out that the Probate Court operations bill includes a proposal for a working group with regard to conservatorships.

### **Planning Committee**

Judge Hoyle reported on behalf of the chair. He indicated that the committee has been working on a bench guide for judges as to the most appropriate uses for virtual and hybrid hearings in the courts.

### **Procedures Review Committee**

Chair Judge Berkenstock reported that the committee continues to diligently work at making court forms more user friendly, accurate, and adding appropriate instructions when available. She thanked all current and recently retired members of the committee. The next meeting is on June 2, 2025 in the PCA library.

### **Public Information**

No report

### **Court Security**

Judge Hoyle reported that the committee has been reviewing the survey responses and itemizing concerns of the courts. The next meeting will be May 5, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the PCA library.

## **NCPJ**

Judge McCaffrey encouraged all to attend the May 2025 conference in Mystic, CT-May 6-9. There will be a reception on Tuesday and a dinner on Thursday night. The fall conference will be in Galveston, Texas in November.

## **Elections**

Judge Marino presented the slate of officers that were approved by the Assembly at its January 22, 2025 meeting and the slate was unanimously approved. Judge Darby swore in the elected officers.

### **OFFICERS:**

**Term: 04/2025-04/2026**

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • President-Judge                 | HONORABLE MICHAEL M. DARBY    |
| • First Vice President-Judge      | HONORABLE PETER C. BARRETT    |
| • Second Vice President-Judge     | HONORABLE MATTHEW J. JALOWIEC |
| • Executive & Recording Secretary | HONORABLE ARIANA F. CENEVIVA  |
| • Treasurer                       | HONORABLE ROBERT A. RANDICH   |

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

**Term: 04/2025- 04/2028**

- |                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| • New London County | HONORABLE CHARLES K. NORRIS    |
| • New Haven County  | HONORABLE CLIFFORD P. HOYLE    |
| • At Large          | HONORABLE CAROLYN L. MCCAFFREY |

### **BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**Term: 04/2025-04/2027**

HONORABLE FRED J. ANTHONY

### **COUNCIL ON PROBATE JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

**Term: 10/01/2025-09/30/2029**

HONORABLE ELISA H. BARTLETT  
HONORABLE FRED J. ANTHONY, Alternate

## **Presentation of Service Awards to Clerks**

The following clerks were presented awards by their respective judges for 25 years of service in the Probate Court system:

Rosemary Nolin of the Saybrook Probate Court;

Nelly Slocum of the Stamford Probate Court; and

Jill Millovitsch of the Southeastern CT Regional Probate Court.

The following clerks were not present but were recognized for their 25 years of service in the Probate Court system: Lisa Bolles of the Norwich Probate Court, Lisa Sargent of the Simsbury Regional Probate Court and Tracy Morrissey of the West Haven Probate Court.

### **Recognition of Retired Judges**

The following retired Judges were recognized at the Assembly meeting and presented with clocks to honor their time of service: Judges Dominick Calabrese, Kathleen Maxham, and Barbara Gardner Riordan. Judge Edward (Ned) Burt was not present at the Assembly meeting but was also recognized for his years of service.

### **Presentation of the Glenn E. Knierim Pro Bono Award**

Judge Jalowiec presented Attorney Christopher Donlin with the Glenn E. Knierim Pro Bono Award for his dedication to the Probate Court system and his pro bono services as an attorney.

### **Announcement of Daniel F. Caruso Public Service Award**

Judge Beverly Streit presented the Daniel F. Caruso Public Service Award to Edith Boyle, the President and CEO of Life Bridge Services.

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

Judge Beverly Streit thanked Chief Justice Raheem Mullins for his remarks and for allowing the use of the Connecticut Supreme Court for our Annual Meeting this morning. She also thanked Chief Court Administrator Elizabeth Bozzuto for her ongoing partnership and support of the Probate Courts. She congratulated and thanked Attorney Christopher Donlin and Edith Boyle for all that they do for the Probate Court system. She thought it was noteworthy that today was Administrative Professionals Day and extended her appreciation for all court staff and the staff at the Office of the Probate Court Administrator for their critical work to support the system and its constituents. Judge Streit remarked that it was a bittersweet time to recognize the retired Probate Judges at the Annual Meeting today. She acknowledged that even though our caseloads have increased in quantity and complexity, our commitment to judicial integrity should persevere and we should continue to demonstrate daily the highest standards of fairness, accountability, and impartiality so that the public continues to have confidence in the Connecticut Probate System.

**Remarks of the President-Judge**

Judge Darby noted that there is a potential for significant turnover of judges given the mandatory retirement age of 70 years old. He indicated that between 2023 and 2026 there will be 23 new judges to the Probate Court system. This is a 42% change in judges between these 2 regular elections. He asked the new judges to become active in the Assembly, to join committees as there will be quite a loss of outstanding senior members of our judiciary. Judge Darby then requested soon to retire Judge Marino to swear him in as the President of the Probate Assembly.

**Other business to come before the Assembly**

None

**Adjournment**

The Assembly adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

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