

Judicial Education Standards Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 16, 2020

**Committee Members Present:** Honorable Evelyn M. Daly, First Vice-President of the Probate Assembly, Chair; Honorable Cynthia C. Becker, Chair of the Continuing Education Committee; Honorable Leah P. Schad, Executive Secretary of the Probate Assembly; Chief Counsel Helen B. Bennet, designee of the Probate Court Administrator, Honorable Beverly Streit-Kefalas.

**Call to Order**

Due to the continued public health emergency, the meeting was held in person and remotely via Cisco Webex video conferencing. Judge Daly called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**New Business**

At its November 4, 2020 meeting, the Executive Committee of the Probate Assembly voted to request the Judicial Education Standards Committee to grant, pursuant to Probate Court Regulation 26.3(e)-(f):

1) a blanket exemption for all judges from the continuing education requirements as set forth in Probate Regulation 26.3 (a) up to a total exemption of 15 credit hours of continuing education for this year in view of the ongoing pandemic.

2) a blanket exemption for all clerks and court staff from the continuing education requirements as set forth in Probate Regulation 26.3 (a) up to a total exemption of 6 credit hours of continuing education for this year in view of the ongoing pandemic.

Motion:

A Motion was made by Judge Daly to grant the blanket exemption for all judges and for all court staff, including clerks, from the continuing education requirements for this year, as requested by the Executive Committee.

Discussion on the Motion:

Regulation 26.3 (e)-(f) provides that the Judicial Education Standards Committee may, for good cause, exempt a judge or clerk from the continuing education requirements under Regulation 26. Good cause for the waiver may include circumstances beyond the control of the judge or clerk making compliance

difficult or impossible. Any waiver shall be in writing and shall state the extent of the waiver and the year for which the waiver is granted.

Good cause to grant the exemption exists since the pandemic has made it difficult, if not impossible, for judges and court staff to satisfy the requirement of in-person continuing education credit. While every judge and every member of the court staff, including clerks, have earned some education credits, many judges and staff have been unable to meet the total number of credits required under Regulation 26 this year for reasons beyond their control.

A vote was called by Judge Daly on the motion to grant an exemption from the continuing education requirements for all judges and court staff for the current year as requested by the Executive Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen B. Bennet