



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

**June 11, 2025
9:45 a.m.**

**Office of the Probate Court Administrator
186 Newington Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06110**

Attendees: Judges Anthony, Barrett, Brandt, Ceneviva, Darby, Hoyle, Lewis, McCaffrey, Osterndorf, and Randich, Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler, Attorney Evan Brunetti and Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Darby called the meeting to order at 9:46 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2025 meeting was made by Judge Lewis and seconded by Judge Hoyle and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

4. New Business:

A motion was made by Judge Lewis to appoint Judge Anthony as the new Chair of the Nominating Committee, seconded by Judge Randich and unanimously approved.

5. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reports that the next meeting is June 18 at PCA. The next program is Wednesday, June 25th in Courtyard Marriott Cromwell. Staff are encouraged to attend.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reports that the June 12th meeting has been canceled. The next meeting is September 18th at 9:30 a.m. at PCA.

Legislative

Evan Brunetti reports the legislature approved \$3.6 million for fiscal year 2026 and \$3.6 million for fiscal year 2027 for the Probate Court budget request. It also approved a suspension of the sweep of our fund for year 1 and increased the retention in the Fund from 15% to 20% in future years. Included in the Probate

Court operations bill is for the Probate Court Administrator to form a working group to study and provide recommendations on issues facing conservators. Additionally, there were some revisions to the ABLE Act. A full legislative summary will be furnished in the coming weeks.

Nominating

No report.

Planning

Judge Anthony reports that the committee has drafted a guide for judges for best practices when determining whether to conduct virtual hearings. The guide for judges only will be distributed to judges shortly.

Procedures Review

On behalf of Chair Berkenstock, Judge Randich reports that the committee continues to review court forms and the next meeting is September 8th at PCA.

Public Information

Judge Brandt reports that the next meeting is Friday, October 3rd at PCA.

Court Security

Judge Hoyle reports that the next meeting is in the fall. November 3rd.

NCPJ

Judge McCaffrey reports that the next NCPJ Conference is in Texas from November 11th – 14th and that retired Judge Purnell will be the new President.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit reports on the following:

- The legislature's required working group regarding conservatorships will include judges. If judges want to serve on the committee, please reach out to her or Attorney Brunetti.
- The Advisory Committee on the Probate Court Rules of Procedure held its first meeting on the 2026 proposed edition last Thursday. Any comments or suggestions may be submitted to her or Attorney Dostaler.

7. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Darby comments on the following:

- 1) The August executive committee meeting is cancelled
- 2) He expressed concerns with the approved state funding and that we report we save the state billions of dollars.
- 3) Given the reduced budget allocated to the Probate Court, the system will continue to rely on probate court fees. He shared his approach in reviewing CT estate tax returns and presented evaluations of real estate.

Discussion followed.

8. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:
None

9. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Judge Lewis and seconded by Judge Barrett.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

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