



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

November 13, 2024

9:45 a.m.

Office of the Probate Court Administrator

**186 Newington Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06110**

Attendees: Judges Barrett, Brandt, Berkenstock, Ceneviva, Daly, Gardner Riordan, Hoyle, Jalowiec, Lewis, Maxham, McGrath and Osterndorf, Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler and Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas.

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2024 meeting was made by Judge Jalowiec and seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and approved.

An error in the minutes was discovered later in the meeting. The original minutes reported that the next meeting of the Public Information Committee was December 6, 2024 at 1:30 in the PCA Library. The minutes are corrected to reflect that the next meeting of the Public Information Committee has not been determined. A motion was made by Judge Jalowiec and seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan to approve the amended minutes to reflect the correction. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Correspondence:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that Judge Darby received an email from Judge Shepard in connection with establishing an ad hoc committee regarding court appointed conservators and his willingness to serve.

Judges Streit-Kefalas and Darby received an email from a member of the public requesting a change in the rules regarding ECT and outpatient therapy. Judge Streit-Kefalas responded to the constituent that the Rules Committee will review when it reconvenes for the next edition.

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Gardner Riordan and Judge Lewis reported that the Judges Institute on October 23, 2024 was well attended and successful. The final seminar of the year is

on November 20, 2024 with a focus on conservatorships and capacity to make decisions. Judge Lewis thanked all judges for participating. 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

Judges Hoyle and Brandt reported that the committee's next meeting on December 4, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the PCA Library.

Legislative

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported the committee met on November 8, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in the Trumbull Probate Court. There was good attendance and discussion of proposed legislation including a request for reinstatement of a reduced filing fee for name change petitions. the committee approved several concepts that will be drafted into a Probate Ops bill. Please submit all suggestions to Judges Fox, Rowe or PCA.

The Budget request for the next biennial budget is \$16M FY26 and \$18.2M for FY27. Judge Streit-Kefalas expects it to be a challenging budgetary year with many demands for public funding. All judges will need to engage with their representatives to pursue approval of the Probate Court system funding requests.

Nominating

No Report

Planning

Judge Brandt reported that the next meeting is on November 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the East Haven-North Haven Probate Court.

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the next meeting is on December 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. in the PCA Library.

Public Information

No Report and meeting scheduled.

Security

Judge Hoyle reported that the committee is still analyzing the results of the survey. PCA is looking into certain security measures which will be shared at a later date. The next meeting will be in January 2025.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit-Kefalas reported on the following:

- a. Six new judges were elected and are currently attending New Judges training.
District 15 - Phrances Leverton Szewczyk
District 22 - David Labriola
District 25 - Sophia H. Shaikh
District 37 - Michael Dolan
District 28 - George Baker
District 49 - Kathy Caulfield
- b. The Commission on Judicial Compensation met recently to hear Chief Justice Raheem Mullins' report on judicial compensation. The Commission's report is due January 2, 2025.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Barrett raised the issue that all courts are challenged in finding individuals to serve as guardians and conservators in our court system.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

Judge McGrath reported on a successful and well attended open house at the Northeast Regional Children's Probate Court.

8. Adjournment:

Judge Hoyle moved and Judge Daly seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham, Recording Secretary