



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

**Regular Meeting of the
Executive Committee**

October 8, 2025

9:45 a.m.

Office of the Probate Court Administrator

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

Attendees: Judges Fred Anthony, Jennifer Berkenstock, Michael Brandt, Ariana Ceneviva, Michael Darby, Clifford Hoyle, Matthew Jalowiec, Jeannine Lewis, Carolyn McCaffrey, and Robert Randich. Also present: PCA Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler and Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Darby called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2025 meeting was made by Judge Lewis and seconded by Judge McCaffrey and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

Judge Darby reported that as President-Judge he was copied on correspondence addressed to the Probate Court Administrator which he has not yet reviewed.

4. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the September program was well attended. She thanked the judges who participated. Upcoming educational programs will be held in October and November. The November program is a joint Bench/Bar program with the CBA. The next committee meeting is October 15, 2025 at 9 a.m. at PCA.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported that the committee met on September 18, 2025 and discussed topics of professionalism. As chair of the committee, he will be part of a panel to present on ethics and conduct at the joint bench/bar seminar in November. The next meeting is not yet scheduled.

Legislative

Judge Streit reports the Committee has an upcoming meeting in December. Additionally, there is potential for a special session by the end of this month.

Planning

Judge Hoyle reported the next meeting is tentatively schedule for May 11, 2026.

Procedures Review

Judge Birkenstock reported that the next meeting is December 1, 2025 at 9 a.m. at PCA.

Public Information

Judge Brandt reported the last meeting was canceled and the next meeting is Friday October 3, 2025 at PCA.

Court Security

Judge Hoyle reported the next meeting is November 3, 2025 at 10 a.m.

NCPJ

Judge McCaffrey reminded judges that the next NCPJ Conference will be in Texas on November 11-14, 2025. Retired Judge Purnell will be the new President.

Ad Hoc Bylaws Revision Judge Brandt will be scheduling its first meeting shortly.

5. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit reported on the following:

- She presented to the Connecticut Bar Association Estates and Probate Section this week. She reviewed 2025 legislative changes, updates in the Probate Court system, professionalism, and other topics.
- The Rules Committee for the 2026 edition of the Rules will have its last meeting to review the draft rules on October 9, 2025. The next step will be the public hearing with the goal for the revised rules to be effective July 1 2026.
- The § 7 Conservator Working Group's next meeting is October 20, 2025.

6. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Darby commented on the following:

- He attended the first meeting of the Section 7 Working Group on Conservator Issues and remarked that it was an informative meeting and a good discussion on issues.
- He noted that he sits on the Planning Committee which is working on the bench guide for best practices for virtual attendance at hearings. He has found especially in certain case types and matters; there is better attendance when the hearing is fully in person rather than granting the ability for parties to attend virtually.

7. Other Business to come before the Executive Committee:

None

8. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Judge Lewis and seconded by Judge Jalowiec.
The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

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