



CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

January 14, 2026

9:45 a.m.

MINUTES

Attendees: Judges, Anthony, Berkenstock, Brandt, Ceneviva, Darby, Jalowiec, Lewis, McCaffrey, Osterndorf, Randich, and Steck, Chief Counsel Heather L. Dostaler, and Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit.

1. Call to Order:

Judge Darby called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes:

Judge Lewis moved to approve the minutes of December 10, 2025, with a correction to "Judges" Brandt. The motion was seconded by Judge Randich and unanimously approved.

3. Correspondence:

A party to a Probate Court matter send copies of his filings to Judge Darby as President of the Assembly

4. Treasurer's Report:

Judge Randich reported that there was \$12,000 of expenditures last quarter, noting use of certain rooms at CCSU is more expensive than other rooms. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Judge Steck and seconded by Judge McCaffrey and unanimously approved.

5. Committee Reports:

Continuing Education

Judge Lewis reported that the next continuing education seminar is January 28, 2026 at CCSU. The next committee meeting is January 21, 2026 at 9:30 am at PCA. There are two new members joining the Committee: Judges McCaffrey and Carchia.

Ethics

Judge Brandt reported the committee's next meeting is March 26, 2026 at PCA.

Legislative

Judge Streit reported that the legislative session opens in three weeks and that the committee's legislative proposals are being drafted. PCA will be meeting the Judiciary

Committee leadership in the coming weeks to review. The short session is largely to address state budget adjustments, and she has renewed the Probate Court system's request of \$18 million for FY27

Planning

No report

Procedures Review

Judge Berkenstock reported that the next meeting is March 16, 2026 at 9 a.m. at PCA.

Public Information

No report

Court Security

No report.

NCPJ

Judge McCaffrey reported she was sworn in as an Executive Committee member of the NCPJ at the end of 2025. The spring conference will be May 6-9, 2026 in Williamsburg, VA and the fall conference is November 11-14, 2026 in Hilton Head Island, SC.

Nominating

Judge Anthony reported that at the January Assembly meeting, he will be presenting a slate of nominations in accordance with the proposed Bylaws Revisions that Judge Brandt will shortly report on. He will also present an alternative slate in case the revisions are not approved.

Bylaws Revision

Judge Brandt reported that the committee met this morning and it is recommending proposed revisions to be presented for approval by the full Assembly at its January 28, 2026 meeting. The main goal of the revisions was to reduce the number of Executive Committee members and change the Public Information committee from being a standing committee. The committee may be convened in the future as needed on an ad hoc basis. Judge Lewis moved to recommend adoption of the revisions to the Assembly at its next meeting. Judge Anthony seconded the motion and after a vote, was unanimously carried.

6. Comments of the Probate Court Administrator:

Judge Streit reported on the following:

- PCA will be offering live, hands-on computer training at PCA for the new CMS program. There are 9 dates to choose from and two sessions per day. All judges and all court staff are strongly encouraged to attend a session.
- The launch of the CMS redesign is expected by late spring-early summer 2026.

- The report of the Section 7 Working Group for Conservators has been completed and will be submitted tomorrow to the Judiciary Committee of the General Assembly. The report has 5 recommendations, and it will be circulated to the courts after submission.

7. Comments of the President Judge:

Judge Darby shared that he will be retiring at the end of this term and for his upcoming article for the Probate Press, he spoke to a few recently and almost retired Judges about their recommendations for retirement.

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 Berkenstock.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Ariana F. Ceneviva, Executive/Recording Secretary