CONNECTICUT PROBATE ASSEMBLY

Regular meeting of the

Legislative Committee

November 8, 2024
11:00 a.m.
Trumbull Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, CT 06611-5416

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Legislative Committee was held on November 8, 2024 at the Trumbull Probate Court. Attending were co-chair, Judge Fox and members Judges DaSilva, Gardner Riordan, Hamzy, DeGennaro, Rebimbas, and Maxham. Probate Court Administrator Beverly Streit-Kefalas also attended.

1. **Call to Order**:
   The meeting was convened by Judge Fox at approximately 11:05 a.m.

2. **Remarks by Co-Chairs:**
   Judge Fox welcomed all members to the meeting and congratulated Judge-elect Labriola who was recently elected as judge of Region #22 and plans to join the Committee. His experience as a former legislator will be an asset.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of April 5, 2024**:
   A motion was made by Judge DaSilva, seconded by Judge Gardner Riordan and carried unanimously to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2024 meeting as presented.

4. **Review Legislation:**
   Members received a one-page Legislative Proposals/Watch List outlining items to be discussed during the meeting which is hereby incorporated into these minutes.

   a. Judge Streit-Kefalas reported that PCA will propose a biennial budget of $16M for FY26 and $18.2M for FY27. The priority is to continue increasing staff compensation at the same rates of 3% COLA and 3% merit raises. PCA is faced with significant IT updates as well. The members discussed the viability of asking for reinstatement of the name change filing fee. The consensus was to request a filing fee of $150 rather the $250.

   b. Evan Brunetti reviewed the Probate Court Operations bill proposals many of which are aimed at clarification of statutes or previous amendments to probate

statutes. Of particular interest to the members was a proposed clarification of C.G.S Section 45a-611(b). There appeared to be no consensus on the clarification, and it was decided to remove it from the bill.

c. The members discussed seeking input from the CBA on whether removed trustee's appeal rights were intentionally omitted from the UTC.
d. PCA will also explore the viability of compensation for court appointed guardians of intellectually disabled adults.

Evan also reviewed bills that PCA will monitor as proposed by other agencies or advocacy groups.

Judge DeGennaro moved to approve the proposals set forth in the Probate 2025 Legislative Proposals/Watch List with the exception of clarifying C.G.S. 45a-611(b). and with the addition of trustee appeal rights in the absence of CBA objection. Judge Maxham seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

5. Other Business:

Judge Hamzy requested the committee explore securing additional contempt authority for probate judges. Judge DeGennaro indicated that the Judge's Association has formed a committee to explore this issue. The members discussed adding language to the Probate Ops bill to mirror Superior Court enforcement of contempt orders. Judge Streit-Kefalas agreed to explore types of matters affected by contempt orders.

Judge DeGennaro spoke about the elimination of Tier III judicial compensation.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Hon. Kathleen N. Maxham