



# Westport-Weston Probate Court Newsletter

Westport-Weston Probate Court Newsletter- January, 2019

## Join Me!

**1/8: 10:30 AM  
Westport Snr Ctr  
Imperial Ave  
Westport**

## Join Me!

**PROBATE COURT  
FREE SEMINARS  
TAUGHT BY MOI**

**Town Hall, Westport  
110 Myrtle Avenue  
Room 100 or 101  
Time: 7:30 PM**

**1/8: Trusts v. Wills,  
What's the  
Difference?**

**1/15: Estate Admin  
Basics & CT 706-NT**

**1/22:  
Mental Illness &  
Substance Abuse  
Proceedings**

Hi and Hello,

I'm Lisa Wexler, the Probate Judge for the Westport- Weston District in Connecticut. Welcome to our newsletter.

## THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR RE-ELECTING ME.

I am delighted and humbled to be your judge for the next 4 years. On January 8, 2019, at 11:30 AM, Westport Town Clerk Patty Strauss will swear me in. Please join us in Room 102, Westport Town Hall, for a quick celebration and hug.



Thank you to my A Team- Anne Gaydos, Carla and Michael Rea, and my amazing husband Bill.

1/29:

Your Duties as a  
Fiduciary- Executor,  
Admin or Trustee;  
Rights as  
Beneficiary

2/5: Conservators:  
Person & Estate

2/12:  
Guardianships:  
Persons and  
Estates

**Always  
check  
w/court at  
203-341-1100  
for last  
minute  
changes.**

**Would You Like Me  
to Speak to Your  
Group? Need more  
info?**

Pls send email to  
[lisa@lisawexler.com](mailto:lisa@lisawexler.com)

-----

### **NEW JUDGES:**

A warm welcome to our new Fairfield Cty Probate Judges:

Kate Maxham, Fairfield  
Max Rosenberg, Stratford  
Douglas Stern, Norwalk-Wilton

### **NEW ESTATE and GIFT TAX THRESHOLDS:**

2018 deaths: CT Exemption \$2,600,000  
2019 deaths: CT Exemption \$3,600,000, Fed \$11,400,000  
2019 gifts: Fed Exemption: \$15,000

### **CT PROBATE COURTS: DID YOU KNOW?**

Our probate courts do much more than settle estates. Over half of our workload is non-estate matters, including guardianships, conservatorships, adoptions, name changes and commitments. These proceedings are very personal and sensitive, which is why we try to create an informal, family-friendly atmosphere in our courts.

### **PROBATE COURT MEDIATION:**

Probate Court mediation may be the best-kept secret and greatest value for the dollar. For only \$350.00 for the entire day, contesting litigants can utilize the services of an existing or retired probate judge to mediate their dispute. Having completed a 40 hour mediation training at the Quinnipiac School of Law, I'm both a convert and participant. Check out the details [HERE](#).

**OUR BELOVED SUGAR: 10/13/2004 - 10/11/2018**

The passing of Sugar has been very hard for me, Bill and all who loved her. Thank you to so many who have acknowledged her special spirit.



---

**Types of Matters On Our Docket:**

**Note: These fact patterns do not represent specific cases in the court; rather, they are representative samples of the types of matters presented to the Probate Court.**

1. A mother died. At the time of death, she was living with her son. Her daughter accuses the son of mismanaging the mother's finances while she was alive. In probate court, the

daughter objects to the admission of the will on the grounds of undue influence and asks the court to compel an accounting under the power of attorney in which the son, as his mother's agent, spent their mother's money.

2. A woman fell in her home and died, unexpectedly. She left no will, and has no parents, spouse or children. She owns property, including her house. A distant cousin petitioned the court for custody of her remains for cremation but does not wish to be administrator of the estate. The court must appoint an administrator whose first task will be to do an heir search to ascertain who is entitled to inherit the estate.

3. A child is expected to receive millions of dollars from a medical malpractice lawsuit. The court must approve the settlement terms of the lawsuit, appoint a person to be guardian of the funds until the child reaches the age of 18, and oversee the investment of the funds during that period of time.

4. A 25 year old man was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. He was threatening his family and claimed he is the reincarnation of Jesus Christ. He refused to eat. He was admitted to the psychiatric ward on an emergency basis for no longer than 15 days. The hospital petitioned the court to commit him for a longer duration.



*"And to whom do you wish to leave the bulk of your estate, sir?"*

**Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy New Year.  
Judge Lisa Wexler**