

**MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
AUGUST 4, 2020**

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 1:03 p.m. via Zoom.

Members Present

Thomas J. Rechen, Esq., **Chair**

G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.

Aimee Golbert, LCSW

Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza

Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein

Others Present

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender

John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2020 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Russell F. Davis to the position of Systems Specialist, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF
APPOINTMENT

The Chief Public Defender discussed the Division's budget and staffing.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term: Assistant Public Defender, Dana Sanetti-Kane, Geographical Area 15 (New Britain), expiring on 4/20/2024; Public Defender, John Walkley, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3, expiring on 5/13/2024; Director of Training, Alison Bloomquist, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 5/30/2024; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Richard E. Condon, Jr., Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, expiring on 7/1/2024; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, John DiStassio, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters, expiring on 7/1/2024; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Jeffrey Magut, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters, expiring on 7/1/2024; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Cynthia J. Clancy, New Britain Juvenile Matters, expiring on 7/5/2024; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Douglas Ovia, Hartford Community Court, expiring on 7/15/2024; Assistant Public Defender, Jenna Carriero, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3, expiring on 7/27/2024; Assistant Public Defender, Toni Esposito, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden), expiring on 7/27/2024; Assistant Public Defender, Danae Dwyer, Hartford Juvenile Matters, expiring on 8/10/2024; and Assistant Public Defender, Lindsey Guerrero, Geographical Area 1 (Stamford), expiring on 8/15/2024.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Arnold Amore, III, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Rocky Hill, upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Social Worker II, Jamie

PERMANENT STATUS

Piccoli, Geographical Area 18 (Torrington), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Senior Assistant Public Defender, Dawn M. Bradanini, Windham Judicial District/Geographical Area 11.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Angela Cortese, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Assistant Public Defender, Thomas Leaf, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

The Chief Public Defender discussed the re-opening plan of the state's courts.

The Chief Public Defender further discussed the hiring of temporary attorneys to assist with the backlog of cases and remote client applications due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 1:24 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 1:57 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 8-2020-01, 8-2020-02, 8-2020-03, 8-2020-04, 8-2020-05, 8-2020-06, 8-2020-07, 8-2020-08, 8-2020-09 and 8-2020-10. Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein abstained from the vote in Authorization 8-2020-05.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the hiring of an attorney for diversity recruitment and training.

APPROVAL OF HIRING

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender