

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 9, 2021

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:32 p.m. via Zoom.

Members Present

Attorney Allison M. Near, **Chair**
Honorable Laura F. Baldini
G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.
Honorable William R. Dyson
Aimee Golbert, LCSW
Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza
Honorable Kevin S. Russo

Others Present

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender
John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender
Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources
Angela C. Anastasi, Public Defender
Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9
Michael J. Isko, Public Defender
New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15
James M. Lamontagne, Public Defender
Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3
Thomas J. Paoletta, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport)
Elizabeth M. Reid, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
Geographical Area 20 (Norwalk)
David Warner, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021 meeting. Honorable Laura F. Baldini abstained from the vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:33 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 5:59 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Laura M. Hamilton to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
LAURA M. HAMILTON

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Albert Unger to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 20 (Norwalk).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ALBERT UNGER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney April R. Zalenski to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 20 (Norwalk).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
APRIL R. ZALENSKI

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Christopher W. Huben to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
CHRISTOPHER W. HUBEN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Jullian H. Jones to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
JULLIAN H. JONES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Laura Hawk-Allen to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
LAURA HAWK-ALLEN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Michael J. Whiteley to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
MICHAEL J. WHITELEY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Richard Gudis to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
RICHARD GUDIS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Elizabeth Carey to the position of Social Worker II, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester).

RATIFICATION OF
ELIZABETH CAREY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 11-2021-01; 11-2021-02; 11-2021-03; and 11-2021-04.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go back into Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. The

EXECUTIVE SESSION

reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:26 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Investigator I, Alexis Jay Angotta, Geographical Area 1 (Stamford).

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, Erica Barber, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Senior Assistant Public Defender, John Cizik, Waterbury Judicial District.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Investigator I, Eva Whelan, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Investigator I, Sebastian Rengifo, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Administrative Assistant, Leslie O'Brien, Office of Chief Public

PERMANENT STATUS

Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Michael Rodrigue, Tolland Judicial District/Geographical Area 19, upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term: Senior Assistant Public Defender, Robert A. Famiglietti, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 9/9/2025; Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Thomas Leaf, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3, expiring on 11/9/2025; Assistant Public Defender, David G.E. Smith, Windham Judicial District/Geographical Area 11, expiring on 11/12/2025; and Assistant Public Defender, Laura Bryll, Hartford Judicial District, expiring on 11/14/2025.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the request of the Chief Public Defender to hire for the following positions: 7 Deputy Assistant Public Defenders; 1 Assistant Public Defender; 1 Investigator; and 3 Clerical Support Staff.

APPROVAL OF HIRING

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender