

**Public Defender Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2023**

Convened via Zoom at 4:41pm

Members in Attendance

1. Atty. Allison Near, Chair
2. Honorable Laura Baldini
3. Atty. G. Kenneth Bernhard
4. Aimee Golbert, LCSW
5. Honorable Kevin Russo

Others in Attendance

1. TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Chief Public Defender
2. Alix Walmsley, Director of Assigned Counsel
3. Erin Ryan, Director of Human Resources

Approval of Minutes

Motion tabled. Voted by the majority of the Commission to table the approval of the Executive Session minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting.

Executive Session

Motion made and seconded. Voted by the majority of the Commission to go into Executive Session at 4:42pm in accordance with §1-200(6)(A) and §1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Executive session concluded at 7:16pm.

Approval of Expenses

Motion made and seconded. Voted by the majority of the Commission to ratify the following:

- #1 dated 9/28/22
- #2 dated 12/22/22
- #3 dated 1/12/23
- #4 dated 1/9/23
- #5 dated 11/15/22
- #6 dated 1/5/23
- #7 dated 1/4/23
- #8 dated 12/2/22
- #9 dated 1/18/23
- #10 dated 11/10/22
- #11 dated 1/10/23
- #12 dated 1/29/23
- #13 dated 1/31/23
- #14 dated 1/31/23

Ratification of Leslie O'Brien

Motion tabled. Voted by the majority of the Commission to table the ratification of Leslie O'Brien as Executive Assistant to the Chief Public Defender.

Ratification of Yizuelis Williams

Motion made and seconded. Voted by the majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Yizuelis Williams as secretary II, Meriden G.A.

Annual Report 2021-2022

Motion made and seconded. Voted by the majority of the Commission to approve the 2021-2022 CT DPDS Annual Report.

Attorney Reappointments

Motion made and seconded. In accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, the majority of the Commission voted to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term:

Atty. Angela Cortese, Manchester Geographical Area
Atty. Justine Whelan, New Haven Judicial District
Atty. Carla Droniak, Derby Geographical Area
Atty. Pamela Nagy, LSU Waterbury
Atty. Drummond Smith, Stamford Geographical Area

Permanent Status

Motion made and seconded. In accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, the majority of the Commission voted to grant permanent status, after completion of a probationary period, to the following:

One-Year

Gregory Dion, System Manager, effective 2/25/2023
Atty. Michael Holler, Waterbury GA #4, effective 2/11/2023
Atty. Desmond Ryan, OCPD – CTIP and PCU, effective 2/11/2023
Atty. Michael Ryan, New Britain JD/GA #15

Outside Employment

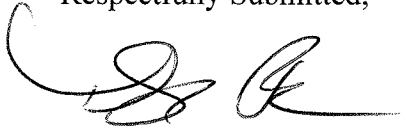
Motion made and seconded. In accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, the majority of the Commission voted to approve the outside employment requests of the following:

Atty. Jennifer Bourn, OCPD LSU
LaQueshia Clemons, Middletown JD/GA #9
Lisa Corcoran, New Britain Juvenile
Miranda Demirjian, Stamford GA #1
Atty. Toni Esposito, Meriden GA #7

Atty. Drummond Smith, Stamford GA #1

No further business for the Commission. Meeting adjourned at 5:34pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TaShun Bowden-Lewis', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

TaShun Bowden-Lewis
Chief Public Defender