

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
DECEMBER 4, 2018

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:33 p.m., in the conference room, at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present

Thomas J. Rechen, Esq., **Chair**
G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq. (***Via Conference Call***)
Honorable William R. Dyson (***Via Conference Call***)
Aimee Golbert, LCSW
Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza
Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein
Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale (***Via Conference Call***)

Others Present

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender
John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender
Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources
TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Public Defender (***Conference Call***)
Waterbury Judicial District
Beth Merkin, Public Defender
New Haven Judicial District
Richard J. Perry, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
Geographical Area 21 (Norwich)
W. Theodore Koch, Esq.
Law Offices of Koch and Koch

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2018 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the 2019 Commission Meeting Dates schedule. The meeting for September will be held on September 10, 2019.

APPROVAL OF 2019
COMMISSION MEETING DATES

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, Kenneth R. Bunker, Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22, expiring on 12/11/22; Assistant Public Defender, Tyler Edwards, Windham Judicial District/Geographical Area 11, expiring on 12/11/22; Director of Juvenile Post-Conviction Unit, James J. Connolly, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 12/13/22; Assistant Public Defender, Keith Zackowitz, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 12/17/22; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Christopher D. Eddy, Geographical Area 15 (New Britain), expiring on 12/24/22; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, John DelBarba, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden), expiring on 11/26/22; Assistant Public Defender, Jonathan Gable, Geographical Area 5 (Derby), expiring on 1/16/20; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, Ann Parrent, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 9/11/22.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

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, Kristie

PERMANENT STATUS

Farrington, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3, upon the successful completion of her promotional 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 Paralegal I, Tania Morillo, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Rocky Hill, upon the successful completion of her promotional 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 Investigator I, Jeissa Muriente, Geographical Area 18 (Torrington), upon the successful completion of her promotional 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 Investigator II, Peter Morrison, Waterbury Judicial District, upon the successful completion of his promotional probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:42 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 6:14 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deny with prejudice the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 121801. The vote was evenly split by Commission members with a 3=yes to 3=no vote. Chair, Thomas J. Rechen, broke the tie with a no vote. The motion failed.

DENIAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to appoint Attorney Catherine O. Brennan to the position of Assistant Public Defender, New Haven Judicial District. Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale abstained from the vote.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
CATHERINE O. BRENNAN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to appoint Attorney Donald F. Meehan to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Waterbury Judicial District. Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale abstained from the vote.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
DONALD F. MEEHAN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to appoint Attorney Jean Park to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich). Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale abstained from the vote.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
JEAN PARK

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Irene L. Tucker to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury) and Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury.

RATIFICATION OF
IRENE L. TUCKER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Eva Whelan to the position of Investigator I, Waterford and Willimantic Juvenile Matters.

RATIFICATION OF
EVA WHELAN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go back into Executive Session at 6:32 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 6:41 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 121802. Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein abstained from the vote.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 121803. The Commission requested the attorney in the matter to attend its next meeting in January.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Division's Attorneys.

RATIFICATION OF COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR
DIVISION'S ATTORNEYS

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender