

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 10, 2020

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:32 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

Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale

Others Present

Christine P. Rapillo, Chief Public Defender

John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources

Jennifer Bourn, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender

Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford

Hilary Carpenter, Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)

David Channing, Public Defender

Tolland Judicial District/Geographical Area 19

Sean F. Kelly, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 10 (New London)

Robert J. Meredith, Senior Assistant Public Defender

Connecticut Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit

Office of Chief Public Defender, Rocky Hill

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:36 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 6:22 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 11-2020-01 and 11-2020-02.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 11-2020-03.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Robert J. Meredith to the position of Director, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Rocky Hill.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ROBERT J. MEREDITH

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Matthew G. Berger to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 10 (New London).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
MATTHEW G. BERGER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Michael M. Rodrigue to the position

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
MICHAEL M. RODRIGUE

of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Tolland Judicial District/
Geographical Area 19.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED
unanimously to appoint Filomena Aresco to the position of
Investigator III, New London Judicial District.

APPOINTMENT OF
FILOMENA ARESCO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED
unanimously to ratify the appointment of Molly R. McDowell to the
position of Social Worker I, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich).

RATIFICATION OF
MOLLY R. MCDOWELL

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED
unanimously to ratify the appointment of Sonia Fernandes Machado
to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Torrington Judicial
District/Geographical Area 18.

RATIFICATION OF
SONIA FERNANDES MACHADO

The Chief Public Defender updated the Commission on the
Division's staffing and budget.

The Chief Public Defender discussed the current status of the
COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Division.

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: Assistant Public Defender, Mildred Doody, Office of Chief
Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 11/1/2024; Assistant Public
Defender, Joshua Michtom, Child Protection Unit, Office of Chief
Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 11/1/2024; Senior Assistant
Public Defender, Jonathan J. Demirjian, Fairfield Judicial District,
expiring on 11/17/2024; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Shepard

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

Sherwood, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 11/17/2024; Assistant Public Defender, Cynthia Love, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich), expiring on 11/21/2024; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Kalisha Raphael, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 11/27/2024; and Assistant Public Defender, Brian Walsh, New Britain Juvenile Matters, expiring on 11/29/2024.

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, Dennis Salzbrunn, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), 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 Social Worker I, Stephanie Lopes, Parole Revocation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

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

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender