

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
OCTOBER 5, 2021

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:42 p.m. via Zoom.

Members Present

Attorney Allison M. Near, **Chair**

G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.

Honorable William R. Dyson (*Via Telephone*)

Aimee Golbert, LCSW

Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza

Honorable Kevin S. Russo

Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale (**Past Commissioner**)

Others Present

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender

John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources

Margaret Castinado, Senior Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 23 (New Haven)

John DelBarba, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 7 (Meriden)

Sharon M. Elias, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender

Waterbury Juvenile Matters

Mark Johnson, Senior Assistant Public Defender

Torrington Judicial District

Sonia M. Jones, Senior Assistant Public Defender

Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9

Bevin Salmon, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
Geographical Area 23 (New Haven)

Alfonzo Sirica, Senior Assistant Public Defender
Parole Revocation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender,
Waterbury

The Commission thanked former Commissioner, Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale, for his years of dedicated service to the Public Defender Services Commission.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021 meeting. Commission member, Aimee Golbert, abstained from the vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:44 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:32 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to appoint Attorney Sonia M. Jones to the position of Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Parole Revocation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury. Honorable Kevin S. Russo abstained from the vote.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
SONIA M. JONES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Owen Firestone to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
OWEN FIRESTONE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Stephanie K. Toronto to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
STEPHANIE K. TORONTO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Brya A. Darley to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Waterbury Juvenile Matters.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
BRYA A. DARLEY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go back into Executive Session at 6:34 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:38 p.m.

The Chief Public Defender updated the Commission on the Division's budget and staffing, including the deployment of temporary staff using Coronavirus Relief Funds.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go back into Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:08 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the paid educational leave request for Investigator I, Virginia Knudsen, Geographical Area 10 (New London).

APPROVAL OF PAID
EDUCATIONAL LEAVE
REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Social Worker I, Chaneil Beckford, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Temporary Attorney, Gabriela Sandoval, Geographical Area 13 (Enfield).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deny the outside employment request of Senior Assistant Public Defender, Douglas Ovian, Hartford Community Court.

DENIAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

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

TABLING OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 10-2021-01; 10-2021-02 and 10-2021-03.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

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 Director of Legal Services, Jennifer Bourn, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, 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

PERMANENT STATUS

unanimously to grant permanent status to Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, D. Keith Foren, Waterford/Willimantic Juvenile Matters, upon the successful completion of his 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 Director of Complex Litigation, Joseph Lopez, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of his 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 Social Worker I, Aijah Downer, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), upon the successful completion of her 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, Jasmine Lewis, New London Judicial District, upon the successful completion of her 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, Molly McDowell, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich), upon the successful completion of her 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 Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Kevin Semataska, Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22, upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to reappoint the Chief Public Defender, Christine Perra Rapillo, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, to a new four-year term, expiring on 10/1/2025

REAPPOINTMENT OF
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to reappoint the Deputy Chief Public Defender, John R. Day, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, to a new four-year term, expiring on 10/1/2025.

REAPPOINTMENT OF
DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC
DEFENDER

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, Ann Guillet, Geographical Area 13 (Enfield), expiring on 10/14/2025; Senior Assistant Public Defender, William O'Connor, III, Psychiatric Defense Unit, Connecticut Valley Hospital, Middletown, expiring on 10/14/2025; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, David K. Nanavaty, Waterbury Juvenile Matters, expiring on 10/16/2025.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the **Income Eligibility Guidelines for Public Defender Services**, effective November 1, 2021.

APPROVAL OF **INCOME
ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**,
EFFECTIVE, NOVEMBER 1,
2021

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender