

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
JUNE 7, 2022

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:37 p.m. via Zoom.

Members Present

Attorney Allison M. Near, **Chair**

G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.

Honorable William R. Dyson (*Conference Call*)

Aimee Golbert, LCSW

Honorable Kevin S. Russo

Others Present

TaShun Bowden-Lewis, 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

Jennifer L. Baldwin, Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 10 (New London)

Renee L. Cimino, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender

New Haven Juvenile Matters

Sandra A. Davis, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 13 (Enfield)

John DelBarba, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 7 (Meriden)

William D. O'Connor, III, Assistant Public Defender

Psychiatric Defense Unit, Connecticut Valley Hospital,
Middletown

David Warner, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2022 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2022 special meeting.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2022 special meeting.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to go into Executive Session at 4:38 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 6:16 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 6-2022-01; 6-2022-02; 6-2022-03; 6-2022-04; 6-2022-05; 6-2022-06; 6-2022-07; 6-2022-08; 6-2022-09; 6-2022-10; 6-2022-11; and 6-2022-12. Honorable Kevin S. Russo voted no in Authorization 6-2022-02.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney William D. O'Connor, III to the position of Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Psychiatric Defense Unit, Connecticut Valley Hospital, Middletown.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
WILLIAM D. O'CONNOR, III

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Robert T. Fontaine to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 13 (Enfield).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ROBERT T. FONTAINE

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

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
HANNAH DEAN

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

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
CLAIRE JABBOUR

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Peter Catania to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
PETER CATANIA

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

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
OLIVIA HAUBERT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to appoint Attorney Elizabeth Carlson to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, New Haven Juvenile Matters.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ELIZABETH CARLSON

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

RATIFICATION OF
CHRISTIN COFIELL

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Susan M. Soares to the position of Human Resources Assistant, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF
SUSAN M. SOARES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term: Assistant Public Defender, Michael Pedevillano, New Haven Judicial District, expiring on 6/12/2026; Assistant Public Defender, Ashley Richard, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 6/22/2026; Assistant Public Defender, Jennifer Walters, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 6/18/2026; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, Lisa Samuelson, New Haven Juvenile Matters, expiring on 6/23/2026.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary II, Jessica Perry, Waterbury Juvenile Matters, 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 by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Public Defender, Bradford Buchta, 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 by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Karen Hardy-Massaró, New Britain Juvenile Matters, 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 by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary II, Courtney McIlrath, Waterford and Willimantic Juvenile Matters, 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 by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Freeman Demirjjan, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), 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 by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Ashley Miller, Milford Judicial

PERMANENT STATUS

District/Geographical Area 22, 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 by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Justin Smith, New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15, upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender