

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**OCTOBER 11, 2022**

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The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:32 p.m. via Zoom.

**Members Present**

Attorney Allison M. Near, **Chair**

Honorable Laura F. Baldini

G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq.

Honorable William R. Dyson

Aimee Golbert, LCSW, BCD

Honorable Kevin S. Russo

**Others Present**

TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Chief Public Defender

John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel

Stephen Hunt, Financial Director

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2022 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to go into Executive Session at 4:33 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 6:21 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 10-2022-01; 10-2022-02; 10-2022-03; 10-2022-04; 10-2022-05; 10-2022-06; 10-2022-07; 10-2022-08; 10-2022-09; 10-2022-10; and 10-2022-11. Honorable Kevin S. Russo recused himself in Authorization 10-2022-06.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to deny the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 10-2022-12.

DENIAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the approval of the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 10-2022-13; 10-2022-14 (approved for 30 hours); 10-2022-15 (approved for 50 hours); 10-2022-16; and 10-2022-17.

RATIFICATION OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of La Shanna Crowell to the position of Investigator I, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

RATIFICATION OF  
LA SHANNA CROWELL

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Roland Drayton to the position of Paralegal II, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury.

RATIFICATION OF  
ROLAND DRAYTON

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by majority of the Commission to ratify the appointment of Cynthia Arellano to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

RATIFICATION OF  
CYNTHIA ARELLANO

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, Nicole Feinberg, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 9/5/2026; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Sonia Jones, Parole Revocation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, expiring on 9/9/2026; Public Defender, Molly Arabolos, New Haven Judicial District, expiring on 9/10/2026; Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Samuel Greenberg, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 9/14/2026; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Sandra Davis, Geographical Area 13 (Enfield), expiring on 9/16/2026; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Claud Chong, Hartford Judicial District, expiring on 9/29/2026; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Renee Cimino, New Haven Juvenile Matters, expiring on 9/29/2026; Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Lida Angier, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3, expiring on 10/12/2026; Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Scott Jongbloed, Torrington Judicial District/Geographical Area 18, expiring on 10/12/2026; Assistant Public Defender, Diana Gomez, Geographical Area 5 (Derby), expiring on 10/17/2026; Assistant Public Defender, Katharine Goodbody, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 10/17/2026; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Margaret Moreau, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 10/17/2026; and Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Amy Zurlo, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury), expiring on 10/26/2026.

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 Investigator III, Jose Serrano, Complex Litigation Unit, Office of Chief Public

PERMANENT STATUS

Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of his 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 Public Defender Secretary II, Kenyatta Smith, Stamford 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 by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Sonia Jones, 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, 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, Roxanne Deblois, New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15, 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, Jennifer Flynn, Hartford 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

PERMANENT STATUS

Assistant Public Defender, William Schofield, Geographical Area 18 (Torrington), upon the successful completion of his 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, Owen Firestone, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden), 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, Stephanie Toronto, 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 by majority of the Commission to grant permanent status to Assistant Public Defender, Erica Barber, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, 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, Shanna Hugle, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, 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, Brya Darley, Waterbury Juvenile Matters, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Deputy Chief Public Defender