

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION  
July 25, 2023**

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The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:31 p.m. in conference room 1011 at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, Connecticut.

**Members Present**

Honorable Richard N. Palmer, **Chair**  
Honorable William R. Dyson  
Michael Jefferson, Esq.  
Honorable Russell Morin  
Honorable Sheila M. Prats  
Honorable Elliot N. Solomon

**Others Present**

TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Chief Public Defender  
John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender  
Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director  
Amy Baez, Financial Officer

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2023, Commission meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director, presented an update regarding the bequest made to the CT Innocence Project and the probate fee.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve a \$3,600 contribution to the probate fee.

BEQUEST

A Q & A followed with Amy Baez, Financial Officer, regarding the status of the endowment.

The Commission provided a period for public comments. There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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: Jennifer Baldwin, G.A. 10 (New London), expiring on 07/01/2027; Margaret Castinado, G.A. 23 (New Haven), expiring on 07/01/2027; Mark Welsh, G.A. 1 (Stamford), expiring on 07/01/2027; Kevin Barrs, New London J.D., expiring on 07/03/2027; John Cizik, Office of Chief Public Defender (Hartford), expiring on 07/03/2027; Ronald Soberaj, Middletown J.D./G.A. 9, expiring on 07/03/2027; and Bevin Salmon, G.A. 23 (New Haven), expiring on 07/11/2027.

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 Cynthia Arellano, Secretary I, G.A. 23 (New Haven), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS  
CYNTHIA ARELLANO

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 LaShanna Crowell, Investigator I, G.A. 2 (Bridgeport), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS  
LASHANNA CROWELL

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 William O'Connor,

PERMANENT STATUS  
WILLIAM O'CONNOR

Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Connecticut Valley Hospital, 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 unanimously to grant permanent status to Hannah Dean, Deputy Assistant Public Defender, G.A. 14 (Hartford), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS  
HANNAH DEAN

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 Claire Jabbour, Deputy Assistant Public Defender, G.A. 14 (Hartford), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS  
CLAIRE JABBOUR

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 Susan Soares, Human Resources Assistant, Office of Chief Public Defender (Hartford), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS  
SUSAN SOARES

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 Shanieka Welsh, Social Worker I, G.A. 14 (Hartford), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS  
SHANIEKA WELSH

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 Denise Brunskill, Social Worker I, Hartford J.D., upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS  
DENISE BRUNSKILL

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 Robert Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Public Defender, G.A. 14 (Hartford), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS  
ROBERT FONTAINE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Rosanna Cappetta, Assistant Public Defender, G.A. 5 (Derby).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:45 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Sections 1-200 (6) (A), (B) and (E) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 07-2023-01, 07-2023-02, 07-2023-03, and 07-2023-04.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint George Rodriguez to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, G.A. 14 (Hartford)

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
GEORGE RODRIGUEZ

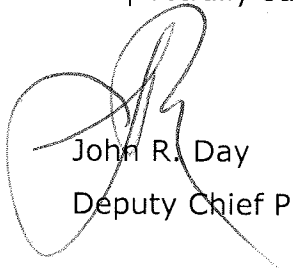
Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Stephanie Mucci to the position of Secretary I, Office of Chief Public Defender (Hartford).

RATIFICATION OF  
STEPHANIE MUCCI

There being no further business to come before the Commission, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. R. Day', written over the typed name.

John R. Day

Deputy Chief Public Defender