

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
JUNE 11, 2025

The special meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:40 p.m., at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Rooms 1008/1011, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present

Honorable Richard N. Palmer, **Chair**

Michael Jefferson, Esq.

Honorable Elliot N. Solomon

Herman Woodard, Jr., Esq.

Others Present

John R. Day, Acting Chief Public Defender

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel

Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources

Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

Brian Pear, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 7 (Meriden)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2025, meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the FY 25 Budget Summary and had no questions.

REVIEW OF FY 25 BUDGET
SUMMARY

The Commission further reviewed the Report of the Acting Chief Public Defender and had no questions.

REVIEW OF REPORT OF THE
ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC
DEFENDER

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 Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss the following: Authorizations to Incur Expenses, Appointments, Reclassifications, Reappointments & Permanent Statuses, Outside Employment Requests, Educational Leave Requests, Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining, and Litigation Involving the Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Other attendees included the Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; Director, Legal Counsel, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Director of Human Resources, Erin M. Ryan; and Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Brian Pear, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

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

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 6-2025-01; 6-2025-02; and 6-2025-03. It should be noted that this is the final approval of expenses in these cases.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to further approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 6-2025-04; 6-2025-05; 6-2025-06; 6-2025-07 (approved for 10 hours); and 6-2025-09.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorization to Incur Expenses until the September 9, 2025, meeting: 6-2025-08.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

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

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
RAPHAEL AINBINDER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term: Assistant Public Defender, Freeman Demirjian, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 6/4/2029; Assistant Public Defender, Ashley Miller, Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22, expiring on 6/4/2029; Assistant Public Defender, Justin Smith, Geographical Area 15 (New Britain), expiring on 6/4/2029; Assistant Public Defender, Paul Shae, Geographical Area 10 (New London), expiring on 6/13/2029; Assistant Public Defender, Tanisha Williams, Waterbury Judicial District, expiring on 6/13/2029; Director, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit, Robert Meredith, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 6/29/2029; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, Rosemary Montesi, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury), expiring on 6/29/2029.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary II, Erica Caro, New Haven 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 Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Emily Jones, Delinquency Defense and Child

PERMANENT STATUS

Protection, Office of Chief Public Defender, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Social Worker I, Nathalia Dorival, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Jihan Carswell, Geographical Area 4 (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 Social Worker II, LaQueshia Clemons, Middletown Judicial District/ Geographical Area 9.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Social Worker III, Lisa Corcoran, New Britain Juvenile Matters.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Acting Chief Public Defender