

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

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The special meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 5:06 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, Chief Public Defender

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director

Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources

John DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel

Stephen Hunt, Chief Fiscal Officer

Angela Anastasi, Public Defender

Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9

Emily Claffey, Deputy Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury)

Corrie Mainville, Public Defender

Torrington Judicial District/Geographical Area 18

Kacey Stone, Deputy Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury)

David Warner, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender

Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)

Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2026, meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, special meeting.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MINUTES

Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephen Hunt, provided a budget update summary for FY 26. There was a brief question-and-answer segment.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 5:14 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: Commission Correspondence, 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 Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; Legal Counsel, Director, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Director of Human Resources, Erin M. Ryan; Assistant Legal Counsel, John DelBarba; Public Defender, Angela Anastasi, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9; Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Emily Claffey, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury); Public Defender, Corrie Mainville, Torrington Judicial District/Geographical Area 18; Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Kacey Stone, Geographical Area

4 (Waterbury); and Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, David Warner, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the Digital Evidence & Storage Policy.

APPROVAL OF DIGITAL EVIDENCE & STORAGE POLICY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deny the Paid Educational Leave Request of Administrative Services Assistant, Megan A. Morgan, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

DENIAL OF PAID EDUCATIONAL LEAVE REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Assistant Public Defender, Dan Lage, Geographical Area 5 (Derby).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Joshua Pascale, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

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: Assistant Public Defender, Desmond Ryan, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 2/11/2030; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Megan Ocampo, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9, expiring on 2/26/2030; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Victoria Pells, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring

ATTORNEY REAPPOINTMENTS

on 2/26/2030; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Richard Perry, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich), expiring on 2/27/2030; Public Defender, Damian Tucker, Hartford Judicial District, expiring on 2/27/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Michael Miller, New London Judicial District, expiring on 3/1/2030; and Assistant Public Defender, Richard Stannard, III, Bridgeport Judicial District, expiring on 3/1/2030.

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 Public Defender Secretary I, Rochelle Buchanan, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Deiona Henry to the position of Social Worker I, Child Protection, Bridgeport.

RATIFICATION OF  
DEIONA HENRY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Carmelita Quinones to the position of Social Worker I, Child Protection, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF  
CARMELITA QUINONES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Sharlene Torres to the position of Social Worker I, Child Protection, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF  
SHARLENE TORRES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Matthew Lewicki to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
MATTHEW LEWICKI

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Benjamin Fleury to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 18 (Torrington).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
BENJAMIN FLEURY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Joel Ennin to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 9 (Middletown).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
JOEL ENNIN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Justin Sargis to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
JUSTIN SARGIS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the use of funds, up to \$10,000, from the Division's Innocence Fund for three exonerees to attend the 2026 Innocence Network Conference on April 9-11, 2026, in Chicago, IL.

APPROVAL OF USAGE OF  
THE DIVISION'S INNOCENCE  
FUNDS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deny the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 2-2026-01.

DENIAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 2-2026-05 and 2-2026-06.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 2-2026-02 (final approval); 2-2026-03; 2-2026-04 (capped for vendor); 2-2026-07 (final approval); 2-2026-08; 2-2026-

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

09; 2-2026-10; 2-2026-11; 2-2026-12; 2-2026-13; 2-2026-14; and 2-2026-15 (approved with the Chief Public Defender's explanation).

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 2-2026-16.

RATIFICATION OF EXPENSES

The Chief Public Defender presented on his report of the Division.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Chief Public Defender