

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION  
JANUARY 6, 2026**

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The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:56 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. (Via Telephone & In-Person)

**Others Present**

John R. Day, Acting Chief Public Defender

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director

John DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel

Stephen Hunt, Chief Fiscal Officer

Renee L. Cimino, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection

James Pastore, Public Defender

Bridgeport/Fairfield Judicial District

Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

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 approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025, special meeting.

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MINUTES

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: Senior Assistant Public Defender, Michael Alevy, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 1/13/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Nancy Boone, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), expiring on 1/14/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Emily Granato, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury), expiring on 1/14/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Evan Marlow, Geographical Area 10 (New London), expiring on 1/14/2030; Director of Training, Andrew O'Shea, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 1/14/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Gabriella Patten, Geographical Area 5 (Derby), expiring on 1/14/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Carli Rizzo, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 1/14/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Erica Scherzer, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich), expiring on 1/14/2030; Senior Assistant Public Defender, John Stawicki, Hartford Judicial District, expiring on 1/15/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Alyssa Hague, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 1/28/2030; and Assistant Public Defender, Marc McKay, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9, expiring on 2/2/2030.

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 Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Emily Leen, New Haven 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 Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to the Director of Complex Litigation, Todd Bussert, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of his 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 Social Worker I, Cara Rich, Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, 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 Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Social Worker I, Laura Speller, Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, 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 Acting Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Human Resources Officer, Katrina Wilson, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 5:10 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,

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Appointments, Reclassifications, Reappointments & Permanent Statuses, Outside Employment Requests, Educational Leave Requests, Strategy and Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining, and Litigation Involving the Commission.

Other attendees included the Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; Legal Counsel, Director, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Assistant Legal Counsel, John DelBarba; Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Renee Cimino; and Public Defender, James Pastore, Bridgeport/Fairfield Judicial District.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:40 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 1-2026-01; 1-2026-03; 1-2026-04; 1-2026-05; 1-2026-06; 1-2026-07; 1-2026-08; and 1-2026-10.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 1-2026-02 and 1-2026-09.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Caroline Watson to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Bridgeport/Fairfield Judicial District.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
CAROLINE WATSON

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Diego Galeazzi to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Middletown.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
DIEGO GALEAZZI

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Senior Assistant Public Defender, Dawn M. Bradanini, Windham Judicial District/Geographical Area 11.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Assistant Public Defender, Robert Famiglietti, Geographical Area 1 (Stamford).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the Tuition Reimbursement Request of Administrative Services Assistant, Megan A. Morgan, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

APPROVAL OF TUITION REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

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

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Acting Chief Public Defender