

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION  
JANUARY 20, 2026**

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The special meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 2:18 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

W. Theodore Koch III, Esq.

Koch, Walker & Smart

Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director

Damian Tucker, Public Defender

Hartford Judicial District

Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

Commission Chairman, Justice Richard N. Palmer, discussed the Division's 2025 Annual Report.

DISCUSSION OF THE DIVISION'S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the Division's 2025 Annual Report.

APPROVAL OF THE DIVISION'S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 2:19 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss the following: Discussion of Personnel Matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Other attendees included the Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; W. Theodore Koch III, Esq., Koch, Walker & Smart; Director of Human Resources, Erin M. Ryan; Legal Counsel, Director, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; and Public Defender, Damian Tucker, Hartford Judicial District.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:03 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney John R. Day to the position of Chief Public Defender.

APPOINTMENT OF  
CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER,  
JOHN R. DAY

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin M. Ryan  
Director of Human Resources