

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION  
MARCH 4, 2026**

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The special meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:10 p.m., at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Room 1006, 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

Attorney Kaprice M. Bonaiuto Blatche

Law Offices of Pat Brown

Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2026, special meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission discussed the new job specification of Public Defender Interpreter.

The Chief Public Defender discussed the new job specification of Public Defender Interpreter. There was a question-and-answer segment.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the new job specification of Public Defender Interpreter.

APPROVAL OF NEW JOB SPECIFICATION: PUBLIC DEFENDER INTERPRETER

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

BUDGET SUMMARY

Legal Counsel, Director, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, discussed the Income Eligibility Guidelines for Public Defender Services for 2026.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the Income Eligibility Guidelines for Public Defender Services for 2026.

APPROVAL OF INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR 2026

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:34 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; and Attorney Kaprice M. Bonaiuto Blatche, Law Offices of Pat Brown.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 3-2026-01.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 3-2026-02 (reduced to 10 hours); 3-2026-03; 3-2026-04; 3-2026-05; and 3-2026-06.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

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, Stephanie Busto, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 3/11/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Evan Dorney, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury), expiring on 3/11/2030; and Assistant Public Defender, Cody Layton, Geographical Area 10 (New London), expiring on 3/25/2030.

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 Assistant Public Defender, James Mortimer, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post-Conviction

PERMANENT STATUS

Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

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

APPROVAL OF  
EDUCATIONAL LEAVE  
REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the Paid Educational Leave Request of Social Worker II, LaQueshia Clemons, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9.

APPROVAL OF PAID  
EDUCATIONAL LEAVE  
REQUEST

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 6:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Chief Public Defender