

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:48 p.m., at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Rooms 1008/1011, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present

Honorable Richard N. Palmer, **Chair**

Katie Farrell, LCSW

Honorable Jane K. Grossman

Michael Jefferson, Esq.

Honorable Elliot N. Solomon

Herman Woodard, Jr., Esq.

Others Present

John R. Day, Chief Public Defender

Bevin O. Salmon, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director

Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources

John R. DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel

Legal and Legislative Affairs Unit

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

Stephen Hunt, Chief Fiscal Officer

Christopher Oakley, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
Parent Defense Unit, Office of Child Protection, Middletown

Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

Commission Chair, Honorable Richard N. Palmer, welcomed the new Commission member, Katie Farrell, LCSW, to the Public Defender Services Commission.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2026, special meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Legal Counsel, Director, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, discussed proposed changes to Sections 8, 10, and 11 of the Public Defender Services Commission, Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual. There was a brief question-and-answer segment.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED
CHANGES TO PDSC
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND
PROCEDURES MANUAL

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the proposed changes to Sections 8, 10, and 11 of the Public Defender Services Commission, Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual.

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED
CHANGES TO PDSC
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND
PROCEDURES MANUAL

The Commission discussed the receipt of two Commission Correspondences. The Commission will further discuss the correspondences in the Executive Session.

DISCUSSION OF
COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCES

Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephen Hunt, provided a budget update summary for FY 27. 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 5:11 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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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.

Other attendees included the Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; Deputy Chief Public Defender, Bevin O. Salmon; Legal Counsel, Director, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Director of Human Resources, Erin M. Ryan; Assistant Legal Counsel, John R. DelBarba, Legal and Legislative Affairs Unit; Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Renee L. Cimino; and Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Christopher Oakley, Parent Defense Unit, Office of Child Protection, Middletown.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

The Commission briefly discussed the Commission Correspondences, which was referred to the Chief Public Defender for follow up. Additionally, the Commission Chairman will send a response letter acknowledging the receipt of the correspondences.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION AND
REFERRAL OF COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 9-2026-01 (final approval); 9-2026-02 (final approval); 9-2026-03 (final approval); 9-2026-07; 9-2026-08; 9-2026-10; 9-2026-11; 9-2026-12; 9-2026-13 (approved for 10 hours); 9-2026-14; 9-2026-15; 9-2026-16; and 9-2026-18.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 9-2026-04; 9-2026-05; 9-2026-06; and 9-2026-17.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deny the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 9-2026-09.

DENIAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 9-2026-19 and 9-2026-20.

RATIFICATION 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: Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Sonia Jones, Parole Revocation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, expiring on 9/9/2030; Public Defender, Molly Arabolos, New Haven Judicial District, expiring on 9/10/2030; Assistant Public Defender, Samuel Greenberg, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 9/14/2030; Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Sandra Davis, Hartford Community Court, expiring on 9/16/2030; Public Defender, Claud Chong, Ansonia/Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22, expiring on 9/29/2030; and Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Renee L. Cimino, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, expiring on 9/29/2030.

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 Public Defender Secretary

PERMANENT STATUS

II, Rochelle Buchanan, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

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 Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Raphael Ainbinder, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

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 Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Kelly Petit, 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 Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Samantha Cupolo, Geographical Area 1 (Stamford), 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 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 Senior Assistant Public Defender, Sanford O. Bruce, III, New Haven Judicial District.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment requests of Social Worker III, Bryan Habib, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

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, Sandra Ward, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the Tuition Reimbursement Request of Executive Assistant to the Commission, Leonie Campbell, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, in accordance with Commission policies and procedures.

APPROVAL OF TUITION
REIMBURSEMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deny the Paid Educational Leave Request of Public Defender Secretary I, Zachary Petrarca, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

DENIAL OF PAID EDUCATIONAL
LEAVE REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the unpaid Educational Leave Request of Public Defender Secretary I, Zachary Petrarca, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury).

APPROVAL OF UNPAID
EDUCATIONAL LEAVE
REQUEST

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

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the payment of expenses for \$20,260.50 to the law firm of Shipman & Goodwin LLP.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES FOR
SHIPMAN & GOODWIN LLP

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Jennifer Leonard to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Parent Defense Unit, Office of Child Protection, Middletown.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
JENNIFER LEONARD

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Max J. Bertsch to the position of Investigator II, Geographical Area 10 (New London).

RATIFICATION OF
MAX J. BERTSCH

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Stephanie L. Salas to the position of Public Defender Secretary II, New Haven Juvenile Matters.

RATIFICATION OF
STEPHANIE L. SALAS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Ryan G. Brimecombe to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

RATIFICATION OF
RYAN G. BRIMECOMBE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Seymone Rosenberg to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

RATIFICATION OF
SEYMONE ROSENBERG

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Alexa L. Morin to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Parole Revocation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury.

RATIFICATION OF
ALEXA L. MORIN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bevin O. Salmon
Deputy Chief Public Defender