



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hartford, CT – The Division of Public Defender Services** will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a banquet on **October 9, 2025, at the Aqua Turf Club, 556 Mulberry Street, Plantsville, CT**. Invited guests include dignitaries from across the state, including representatives from the legislature and other state agencies.

The program for the evening will highlight the courageous work our defense teams across the state have accomplished in the last 50 years supporting CT citizens who would not otherwise be able to afford an attorney:

*"In 1917, we became the first state in the country to establish a statewide public defender system, which operated under the direction of the judges of the Superior Court - long before the United States Supreme Court, in 1963, recognized the right to counsel in state criminal cases in Gideon v. Wainwright," says Justice Richard N. Palmer, Chairman of the PDS Commission. "Thereafter, in 1975, our legislature established the Public Defender Services Commission, a separate and autonomous state agency, to oversee the newly created Division of Public Defender Services. Connecticut is duly proud of its long history of safeguarding the rights of the criminally accused, and very proud, as well, that the Division of Public Defender Services has been recognized as one of the nation's preeminent public defender systems since its inception fifty years ago."*

The Division's field offices will commemorate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary by planning community service events throughout the state.

All are invited to attend. To purchase tickets, go to [Public Defender Services 50th Anniversary Celebration](#) to RSVP by August 29, 2025. Tickets are \$65.00 per person.

### **Division of Public Defender Services Mission Statement**

**Connecticut Public Defender Services' mission is "Striving to ensure justice and a fair and unbiased system, and to zealously promote and protect the rights, liberty and dignity of all clients entrusted to us. We are committed to holistic representation that recognizes clients as individuals, fosters trust, and prevents unnecessary and wrongful convictions".**

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