

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
MARCH 4, 2025

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:45 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 Russell Morin

Honorable Shelia M. Prats

Honorable Elliot N. Solomon

Herman Woodard, Jr., Esq.

Others Present

John R. Day, Acting Chief Public Defender

Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources

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

John R. DelBarba, Executive Assistant Public Defender

Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission

Sanford O. Bruce, III, Senior Assistant Public Defender
New Haven Judicial District

Todd Bussert, Director of Complex Litigation

Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford

Charles E. Green, Jr., Senior Assistant Public Defender
Waterbury Judicial District

Jeffrey LaPierre, Senior Assistant Public Defender

Ansonia-Milford Judicial District/Geographical Area 22

Jared Milbrandt, Public Defender
Stamford-Norwalk Judicial District/Geographical Area 1
Brian Pear, Senior Assistant Public Defender
Hartford Judicial District
Megan L. Weiss, Senior Assistant Public Defender
Geographical Area 7 (Meriden)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2025, meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephen Hunt, provided a brief budget summary for FY 25.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 5:00 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, Appointments, Reclassifications, Reappointments & Permanent Statuses, Outside Employment Requests, Educational Leave Requests, and Litigation Involving the Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Other attendees included the Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; Director of Human Resources, Erin M. Ryan, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Renee L. Cimino; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Sanford O. Bruce III, New Haven Judicial District; Director of Complex Litigation, Todd Bussert, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Charles E. Green, Jr., Waterbury Judicial District; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Jeffrey LaPierre, Ansonia-Milford Judicial

District/Geographical Area 22; Public Defender, Jared Millbrandt, Stamford-Norwalk Judicial District/Geographical Area 1; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Brian Pear, Hartford Judicial District; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, Megan L. Weiss, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 8:56 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deviate from Policy 205 for the purposes of hiring the Supervisory Assistant Public Defender for Waterbury/Willimantic Juvenile Matters. This allows the Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Renee L. Cimino, to make a recommendation directly to the Commission.

DEVIATION FROM POLICY 205

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Brian Pear to the position of Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
BRIAN PEAR

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Erica L. Wardle to the position of Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Waterford/Willimantic Juvenile Matters.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ERICA L. WARDLE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Johanna Canning to the position of Senior Assistant Public Defender, Complex Litigation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
JOHANNA CANNING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Robert Famiglietti to the position of Senior Assistant Public Defender, Stamford-Norwalk Judicial District/Geographical Area 1.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ROBERT FAMIGLIETTI

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

RATIFICATION OF
CHRISTOPHER D. KRAMER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Tashyra Porter to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

RATIFICATION OF
TASHYRA PORTER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Rebecca H. Fernandez to the position of Public Defender Secretary I, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9.

RATIFICATION OF
REBECCA H. FERNANDEZ

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 3-2025-01; 3-2025-02; 3-2025-03; 3-2025-04; 3-2025-05; 3-2025-06; 3-2025-07; and 3-2025-08.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

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, Dawn Bradanini, Windham Judicial District/Geographical Area 11, expiring on 3/18/2029; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Sanford O. Bruce III, New Haven Judicial District, expiring on 3/18/2029; and Senior

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

Assistant Public Defender, Christine Schwartzstein, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 3/24/2029.

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 Public Defender Secretary I, Amanda Figueroa, Middletown Judicial District/ Geographical Area 9, 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 Social Worker I, Roberto Ramos, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Social Worker II, Melissa Ruot, Connecticut Valley Hospital, Middletown.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Commission Chair, Justice Palmer, made a brief statement regarding Commission member, Honorable Russell Morin, who resigned from the Public Defender Services Commission, effective at the end of the meeting.

RESIGNATION OF COMMISSION MEMBER, HONORABLE RUSSELL MORIN

Commission member, Honorable Russell Morin, made a brief statement thanking his colleagues on the Public Defender Services Commission for their support during his tenure and that it has been a pleasure working together.

BRIEF STATEMENT BY HONORABLE RUSSELL MORIN

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Acting Chief Public Defender