

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
MAY 6, 2025

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:47 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 Sheila M. Prats
Honorable Elliot N. Solomon (via Zoom)
Herman Woodward, Jr., Esq.

Others Present

John R. Day, Acting Chief Public Defender
Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Director, Legal Counsel
Erin M. Ryan, Director of Human Resources
Leonie Campbell, Executive Assistant to the Commission
Angela C. Anastasi, Public Defender
Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9
Molly Arabolos, Public Defender
New Haven Judicial District
Damian Tucker, Public Defender
Hartford Judicial District
David Warner, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender
Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED
unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2025, meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:50 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, Discussion of Executive Assistant Public Defender, Legal Counsel Unit, and Litigation Involving the Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Other attendees included the Acting Chief Public Defender, John R. Day; Director, Legal Counsel, Deborah Del Prete Sullivan; Director of Human Resources, Erin M. Ryan; Public Defender, Angela C. Anastasi, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9; Public Defender, Molly Arabolos, New Haven Judicial District; Public Defender, Damian Tucker, Hartford Judicial District; and Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, David Warner, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:15 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 5-2025-01; 5-2025-02; 5-2025-03; 5-2025-04; and 5-2025-06. Commission member, Honorable Sheila M. Prats, recused herself from the vote in the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 5-2025-03.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 5-2025-05.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Thomas E. Kuhlmeier to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 14 (Harford).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
THOMAS E. KUHLMEIER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Michelle E. Fredericks to the position of Assistant Public Defender, Hartford Judicial District.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
MICHELLE E. FREDERICKS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Alexandra R. O'Keefe to the position of Assistant Public Defender, Hartford Judicial District.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ALEXANDRA R. O'KEEFE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Alyssa DeDominicis to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Middletown Judicial District/Geographical Area 9.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
ALYSSA DEDOMINICIS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Freeman Demirjian to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, New Haven Judicial District.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.
FREEMAN DEMIRJIAN

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Jean D. Louisgene to the position of Investigator II, Hartford Judicial District.

RATIFICATION OF
JEAN D. LOUISGENE

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

RATIFICATION OF
ROCHELLE BUCHANAN

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: Assistant Public Defender, Matthew DiVito, Hartford Judicial District, expiring on 5/2/2029; Assistant Public Defender, Albert Koziatek, New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15, expiring on 5/7/2029; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Amelia Ruggeri, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 5/13/2029; Assistant Public Defender, Corey Berry, New Britain Judicial District/Geographical Area 15, expiring on 5/21/2029; and Assistant Public Defender, Alexander Glomb, Windham Judicial District/Geographical Area 11, expiring on 5/21/2029.

ATTORNEY
REAPPOINTMENTS

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, Sonya Cruz, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

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 Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Sean Langberg, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

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 Systems Specialist, Cynthia Munroe, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, 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 III, Bryan Habif, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve a salary adjustment for Executive Assistant Public Defender, John DelBarba, Legal Counsel Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

APPROVAL OF SALARY
ADJUSTMENT FOR EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER,
JOHN DELBARBA

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go back into Executive Session at 6:26 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(B) of the Connecticut General Statutes to discuss the following: Litigation Involving the Commission.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It should be noted that no other staff members were present at this discussion.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:45 p.m.

The Acting Chief Public Defender updated the Commission on the Leadership Certification Program and its conclusion on June 6, 2025.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF
PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Acting Chief Public Defender further updated the Commission on the Division's Annual Meeting on June 13, 2025, at the University of Saint Joseph.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF
PUBLIC DEFENDER

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Acting Chief Public Defender