

MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
JULY 1, 2025

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:39 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

Herman Woodard, 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

John DelBarba, Assistant Legal Counsel

Stephen Hunt, Chief Fiscal Officer

Bradford Buchta, Public Defender

Tolland Judicial District/Geographical Area 19

Daryl McGraw, Public Defender Administrative Assistant

Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford

Matthew Dyer, Esq.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2025, special meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephen Hunt, provided a budget summary for FY 25 and FY 26.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Commission noted the written Report of the Acting Chief Public Defender.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:46 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, Matter of an Employee in the Office of Chief Public Defender, 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; Assistant Legal Counsel, John DelBarba; Public Defender, Bradford Buchta, Tolland Judicial District/Geographical Area 19; Public Defender Administrative Assistant, Daryl McGraw, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford; and Matthew Dyer, Esq.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 7-2025-01; 7-2025-02; 7-2025-03; and 7-2025-04.

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: Assistant Public Defender, Maureen Murphy, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), expiring on 7/11/2029; Senior Assistant Public Defender, Cynthia Barlow, Tolland Judicial District/Geographical Area 19, expiring on 7/15/2029; Assistant Public Defender, Jennifer Smith, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, expiring on 7/16/2029; and Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Matthew Brovender, Danbury Judicial District/Geographical Area 3, expiring on 7/30/2029.

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 Investigator III, Justino Sampaio, Parole Revocation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, 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 Investigator II, Dyllan Leonard, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post-Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, 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 Investigator II, Stacey Yuchniuk, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich), 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 Secretary I, Kimberly Ann Huot, New Haven Judicial District, 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 Assistant Public Defender, Christopher Oakley, Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Office of Chief Public Defender, upon the successful completion of his 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 Public Defender Administrative Assistant, Daryl McGraw, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to uphold the decision of the Acting Chief Public Defender to demote Daryl McGraw to the position of Public Defender Administrative Assistant.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day
Acting Chief Public Defender