

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**DECEMBER 3, 2019**

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The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:32 p.m., in the conference room, at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, Connecticut.

**Members Present**

Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza, **Acting Chair**

G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq. (*Conference Call*)

Honorable William R. Dyson (*Conference Call*)

Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein (*Conference Call*)

Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale (*Conference Call*)

**Others Present**

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender

John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender

Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:33 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Damian T. Tucker to the position of Public Defender, Hartford Judicial District.

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
DAMIAN T. TUCKER

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Tirena L. Blue to the position of Fiscal Administrative Assistant II, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

RATIFICATION OF  
TIRENA L. BLUE

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to ratify the appointment of Nicole Santiago to the position of Public Defender Secretary II, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters.

RATIFICATION OF  
NICOLE SANTIAGO

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 121902, 121903, 121904 and 121905. Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale recused himself regarding Authorization 121902.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table Authorization 121901 in order to obtain additional information.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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: Senior Assistant Public Defender, Laila Haswell, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, expiring on 12/1/23; Assistant Public Defender, Alfonzo Sirica, Parole Revocation Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Waterbury, expiring on 12/12/23; Assistant Public Defender, Shalu Gulash, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), expiring on 12/16/23; Assistant

ATTORNEY  
REAPPOINTMENTS

Public Defender, Jared Millbrandt, Bridgeport Judicial District, expiring on 12/16/23; Assistant Public Defender, Russell Williams, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester), expiring on 12/27/23; and Senior Assistant Public Defender, Elizabeth Gleason, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters, expiring on 12/30/23.

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 Investigator I, Amber Story, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport), 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, Jean Park, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich), 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 Supervisory Assistant Public Defender, Jennifer Bourn, Legal Services Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the **2020 Commission Meeting Dates**.

APPROVAL OF  
**2020 COMMISSION MEETING  
DATES**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Deputy Chief Public Defender