

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE OFFICE OF THE STATE APPELLATE DEFENDER**

February 20, 2015

**Office of the State Appellate Defender
Conference Room
203 North LaSalle, 24th Floor Chicago, IL**

The following matters were addressed at the February 20, 2015, meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Office of the State Appellate Defender.

Present - **Board Members:** Thomas Breen, Honorable Michael P. Toomin, Honorable R. Peter Grometer, Honorable A.C. Cunningham, Jr., Honorable Dennis Middendorff, Gary A. Dobbs, and Rebecca Janowitz. Absent - Kim D. Campbell and Kathryn Saltmarsh

Present - **Agency Staff:** Michael J. Pelletier, State Appellate Defender; James E. Chadd, Deputy State Appellate Defender; Tonya Janecek, Chief Fiscal Officer and Human Resource Director; and Sue Ryan, Senior Administrative Assistant. Present via teleconference: David P. Bergschneider, Deputy State Appellate Defender.

Chairman Thomas Breen called the meeting to order and thanked former Commissioner Thomas Sullivan, who was unable to attend the meeting, for his years of service on the Board of Commissioners of the Office of the State Appellate Defender. Chairman Breen then welcomed to the Board Mr. Sullivan's successor, Kathryn Saltmarsh, Executive Director of the Illinois Sentencing Policy Advisory Council, who was also unable to attend today's meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2014, Board meeting was made by Justice R. Peter Grometer and seconded by Justice Michael Toomin. The minutes were approved unanimously.

New Business

A. Report for the First Six Months of Fiscal Year 2015

State Appellate Defender Michael J. Pelletier reported on the activities of the Agency for the first six months of Fiscal Year 2015.

For the period between July 1, 2014, and December 31, 2014, Mr. Pelletier reported that the Agency had been appointed to 1563 cases with a backlog of approximately 400 cases. The backlog, which was attributed to leaves of absence and 17 agency vacancies, will be addressed when the Agency fills 10 attorney positions on March 2, 2015. Because of the Governor's request for budget reductions, the Agency will not be able hire staff for the remaining 7 vacancies.

Mr. Pelletier also spoke about the following:

- The exceptional job of the Expungement Unit and Director Ashley Richardson. He noted that there is now more interaction via email than telephone for expungement communication,
- The new case management system which is scheduled to be up and running by the end of the fiscal year,
- The retirement of Anne Carlson who performed an excellent job as Deputy Defender of the Capital Post-Conviction Unit and who stayed on with the Agency after the closing of that unit to complete work on ongoing post-conviction cases.
- The only capital post-conviction case that remains which is being handled by another Agency attorney. At the conclusion of this particular case, all of the work of the Capital Post-Conviction Unit will be complete.
- The successful seminars held in conjunction with the Illinois Public Defender Association - the Persuading Judges II seminar which was held at Loyola Law School in September and the 2014 Illinois Public Defender Association Fall Seminar held in Springfield in October.

B. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016

State Appellate Defender Michael Pelletier submitted the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016 in the amount of \$21,900,000 which represents an increase of \$1,550,400 or 7.62% over the current Fiscal Year 2015 operating budget.

This budget request will provide for the following:

- Full staffing of the agency;
- Increase the pay plan for all titles;
- Continuation of the Public Defender Training Program;
- Implementation of the Juvenile Defender Resource Center;
- Implementation of the Law Student Intern Program;
- Upgrade to new phone system - Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP)

After Mr. Pelletier submitted his proposed budget, discussion ensued regarding Governor Rauner's request for a 10% budget reduction and what that would mean for the Agency. It would be a decrease of 1.56 million dollars and approximately 40 layoffs - 30 attorneys and 10 support staff; 700 - 800 clients whose cases would not be appealed; and 800-1000 appeals that would not be processed in a timely matter. Mr. Pelletier informed the Board that he is to appear before the House Appropriations Committee in March.

A motion to approve the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 was then made by Judge Dennis Middendorff and seconded by Gary Dobbs. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. **Haddad, Hughes and Gottfried Award Recommendations**

Deputy State Appellate Defender David Bergschneider presented the following nominating committee recommendations to the Board for approval:

For the **James B. Haddad Award**, the 2015 nominating committee recommends the following nominees:

Kim DeWitt, Assistant Appellate Defender in the Second District Office
Linda Olthoff, Assistant Appellate Defender in the First District Office

For the **Patrick J. Hughes, Jr. Award**, the 2015 nominating committee recommends the following nominee:

Debra R. Salinger, Supervisor in the First District Office

For the **Theodore A. Gottfried Award**, the 2015 nominating committee recommends the following nominees:

Marge LaGiglio, Paralegal in the First District Office
Sue Ryan, Senior Administrative Assistant in the Administrative Office
Wendy Wenzel, Paralegal in the Third District Office

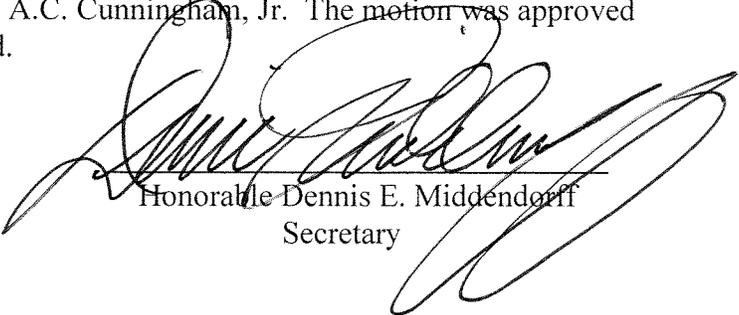
A motion to approve the recommendations of the Haddad, Hughes, and Gottfried Award Nominating Committees was made by Justice R. Peter Grometer and seconded by Judge A.C. Cunningham, Jr. The motion was unanimously approved.

Other Business

The date for the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners was set for Friday, September 25, 2015, to be held in the First District office in Chicago at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Judge Dennis Middendorff and seconded by Judge A.C. Cunningham, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.


Honorable Dennis E. Middendorff
Secretary