



## LOUISIANA PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

Monday, October 10, 2022  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
600 North Street – Baton Rouge

### MINUTES

**1. Call to Order and Comments, Chairman Michael C. “Mike” Ginart, Jr.**

A meeting of the Louisiana Public Defender Board, pursuant to lawful notice, was called to order by its Chairman Michael C. Ginart, Jr. on Monday, October 10, 2022, at approximately 1:10 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

Zita Andrus	Lou Daniel	Flozell Daniels
Pat Fanning	Michael Ginart	Holly Howat
Lyn Lawrence	Allyson Melancon	Donald North
Frank Thaxton		

The following Board member was absent: Frank Holthaus

The following members of the Board’s staff were present:

Rémy Voisin Starns, State Public Defender  
Barbara Baier, General Counsel  
Anne Gwin, Executive Assistant  
Richard Pittman, Dep. Public Defender, Dir. Juvenile Defender Services

**2. Adoption of the Agenda\*.** Professor Donald North moved to adopt the agenda. Judge Frank Thaxton seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

**3. Public Comment.** No one presented for public comment.

**4. Executive Session<sup>1</sup>.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Board may vote to go into executive session pursuant to La. R.S. 42:16 and 42:17 (formerly La. R.S. 42:6 and 42:6.1), by a two-thirds vote of the members present. The executive session is limited to matters allowed to be exempted from public discussion pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17, including character and professional competence of a person; provided, however, such person(s) may require that such discussion be held at an open meeting pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1). No final or binding action will be taken during executive session. The board may discuss the Chief District Defender applicants/appointments in District 15 (Acadia, Lafayette and Vermilion Parishes- Chad Ikerd, Margaret LeBlanc, Amanda Martin and Trisha Ward; District 23 (Ascension, I Board Minutes\_Oct 10 2022

Mr. Lyn Lawrence moved to go into Executive Session. Professor North seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Mr. Pat Fanning moved to leave Executive Session. Judge Thaxton seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Professor North moved to return to regular session. Ms. Zita Andrus seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

**5. District Defender Selection and Salaries\***

**c. District 40 (St. John the Baptist Parish)**

Upon return to regular session, Professor North moved that the Board select Ms. Fontella Baker as the District Defender in District 40 (St. John the Baptist Parish). Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Upon vote, the motion to appoint Ms. Fontella Baker as District Defender in District 40 (St. John the Baptist Parish) passed unopposed.

Chairman Ginart thanked the candidates and congratulated Ms. Baker.

Professor North moved to go into Executive Session. Ms. Andrus seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Ms. Allyson Melancon moved to leave Executive Session. Mr. Flozell Daniels seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Ms. Melancon moved to return to regular session. Dr. Holly Howat seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

**b. District 23 (Ascension, Assumption and St. James Parishes)**

Upon return to regular session, Ms. Melancon moved to recommend Ms. Tiffany Myles Crosby as District Defender in District 23 (Ascension, Assumption, and St. James Parishes). Mr. Daniels seconded the recommendation. Mr. Lawrence moved to recommend Ms. Tonya Blanchard Clark for the position. Mr. Fanning seconded Mr. Lawrence's recommendation. Chairman Ginart called for a voice vote with each Board member indicating his/her candidate of choice by name when called upon. Upon vote, the final count was tied with five in favor of Ms. Crosby (Andrus, Daniels, Howat, North, Melancon) and five in favor of Ms. Clark (Daniel, Fanning, Lawrence, Thaxton, Ginart).

After some discussion, Professor North moved to return to Executive Session to obtain clarifications from the two final nominees for the position. Ms. Andrus seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Professor North moved to leave Executive Session which was seconded by Mr. Fanning. Dr. Howat moved to return to regular session which was seconded by Mr. Daniels and passed unopposed.

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Assumption and St. James Parishes) - Jarrett Ambeau, Tonya Clark, Tiffany Myles Crosby and Jeffrey Heggelund; and District 40 (St. John the Baptist Parish) – Fontella Baker and Kevin Christensen. The Board may have discussions on general personnel actions.

Upon return to regular session, Chairman Ginart indicated the two nominees remain the same and called for a second voice vote. Upon vote, the final count was six in favor of Ms. Tonya Clark (Daniel, Fanning, Lawrence, North, Thaxton, Ginart) and four in favor of Ms. Tiffany Crosby (Andrus, Daniels, Howat, Melancon).

Chairman Ginart congratulated Ms. Clark and thanked the other candidates.

Professor North moved to go into Executive Session. Ms. Andrus seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Ms. Melancon moved to leave executive session which was seconded by Professor North and passed unopposed. Dr. Howat moved to return to regular session, seconded by Ms. Melancon and passed unopposed.

**a. District 15 (Acadia, Lafayette and Vermilion Parishes).** Upon return to regular session, Mr. Lawrence moved to nominate Ms. Amanda Martin as District Defender in District 15 (Acadia, Lafayette, and Vermilion Parishes). Professor North seconded the nomination. Mr. Daniels moved to nominate Ms. Trisha Ward for the position. Judge Thaxton seconded the nomination. Professor North moved to close the nominations which was seconded by Ms. Melancon. Chairman Ginart called for a voice vote with each Board member indicating their choice by name when called upon. Upon vote, the final count was seven in favor of Ms. Martin (Daniel, Fanning, Howat, Lawrence, Melancon, Thaxton, Ginart) and three in favor of Ms. Ward (Andrus, Daniels, North).

Chairman Ginart thanked the candidates and congratulated Ms. Martin. Mr. Daniels moved that salaries be set at the amount of the previous/out-going District Defenders. Professor North seconded the motion. There was no opposition.

6. General Personnel Actions. This item was not discussed.

7. Adjournment\*. Mr. Daniels moved to adjourn. Dr. Howat seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

Guests: See attached sign in sheet.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct account of the proceedings of the meeting of Louisiana Public Defender Board meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2022 in Baton Rouge, LA, as approved by the Board on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022, Baton Rouge, LA.

  
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MICHAEL C. GINART, JR., CHAIRMAN



LOUISIANA PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

Board Meeting

Monday, Oct 10, 2022

1:00 PM

Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors

600 North Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Guest Sign In

	GUESTS Please Print	Signature
15th	1 Maggie Simon LeBlanc	<i>Maggie Simon LeBlanc</i>
4th	2 Eutelle F. Baker	<i>Eutelle F. Baker</i>
	3 Dr. Boyce H. Brown	<i>Dr. Boyce H. Brown</i>
15	4 Trisha Ward	<i>Trisha Ward</i>
23	5 Tiffany Myles Crosby	<i>Tiffany Myles Crosby</i>
23	6 Tonya B. Clark	<i>Tonya B. Clark</i>
23	7 Jeff Negreiros	<i>Jeff Negreiros</i>
23	8 Jowett Amberson	<i>Jowett Amberson</i>
4th	9 Kevin J. Christensen	<i>Kevin J. Christensen</i>
15	10 Amanda A. Martin	<i>Amanda A. Martin</i>
	11 Harry Lady III	<i>Harry Lady III</i>
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