

STATE EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT COMMISSION



MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD
for DISABILITY RETIREMENT



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
RETIREMENT SERVICES DIVISION
OFFICE of the STATE COMPTROLLER
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**Meeting of the Legal & Personnel Subcommittee of
the State Employees Retirement Commission**

DATE: September 9, 2026

PRESENT:

Chairman Peter Adomeit
Trustee Michael Carey
Trustee Brian Hill
Trustee Michael O'Brien
Commission Counsel Cindy Cieslak (Rose Kallor, LLP)
Commission Counsel Michael Rose (Rose Kallor, LLP)
Tax Counsel Virginia McGarrity (Robinson & Cole LLP)
Robert Helfand, Retirement Services Division
Benjamin Sedrowski, Retirement Services Division
Yamuna Menon, Assistant Comptroller and General Counsel

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Ms. Cieslak identified the individuals in attendance.

At 8:34 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Hill to approve the agenda. All voted in favor.

At 8:35 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Hill to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session for the purpose of discussing Items 1-8. All voted in favor. The Subcommittee invited Cindy Cieslak, Robert Helfand, Virginia McGarrity, Michael Rose, and Benjamin Sedrowski to enter executive session for Items 1-8 because they may give opinions or factual background with respect to the topics at issue. Yamuna Menon joined the meeting at approximately 8:47 a.m. and was invited into the meeting for discussion on Items 3-8.

Executive Session – discussion and possible recommendation

1. Kathleen Belanger appeal – written legal opinion.
2. Danielle Kyer request for reconsideration – written legal opinion.
3. Joshua Mendez appeal – written legal opinion.
4. Carmela Smith petition for declaratory ruling – written legal opinion.
5. Patrick Butler v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.
6. William Kenney v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.
7. Lori LaPrise v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.

8. William Pagoni v. SERC – pending claim/pending litigation.

At 8:59 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Hill to exit executive session. All voted in favor.

Public Session

At 9:00 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Hill that the Subcommittee recommend that the Retirement Commission deny Ms. Belanger's request for remand to the Medical Examining Board. All voted in favor.

At 9:00 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Hill that the Subcommittee recommend that the Retirement Commission deny Ms. Kyer's request for reconsideration. All voted in favor.

At 9:01 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Hill that the Subcommittee recommend that the Retirement Commission remand Mr. Mendez's disability retirement application to the medical Examining Board with instruction to explain why it concluded that Mr. Mendez's disability was attributable to pre-existing conditions as opposed to the work-related injury. All voted in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before the Subcommittee, at 9:01 a.m., Mr. Carey moved, seconded by Mr. Hill to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Carey