Supreme Court of Illinois

October 26, 2026

ILLINOIS STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION TO HOLD INAUGURAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 30

The State Public Defender Commission has announced its first meeting to be held on Friday, October 30, at locations in Springfield and Chicago. The meeting is open to the public.

The Commission's inaugural meeting is a landmark step and effectuates the Illinois FAIR Act, PA 104-0300, which was signed into law by Governor Pritzker in 2025 to provide for the constitutionally mandated public defense system in Illinois.

Implementation of the FAIR Act is intended to phase in over several years. The Commission will play a vital role in overseeing and supporting the Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD), which becomes effective January 1, 2027.

The Commission includes appointees of the Illinois Supreme Court, Governor and General Assembly. The Commission's membership and first meeting agenda are listed below.

MEETING DETAILS

Date: Friday, October 30, 2026 **Time:** 1 p.m.

Locations:

850 E. Madison (3rd Floor) Springfield, IL 62702	Michael A. Bilandic Building (5th FL - RM N505) 160 N. LaSalle Street Chicago IL 60601

AGENDA

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Carol A. Brook Former Executive Director Federal Defender Program	**Hon. Michael Burke, Retired** Illinois Supreme Court
Jeffrey D. Coleman Of Counsel Jenner & Block LLP	**Professor Shobha Mahadev** Assistant Dean for Clinical Education Children & Family Justice Center Northwestern Pritzker School of Law
Sharone Mitchell, Jr. Chief Public Defender Cook County	**Hon. Brian Otwell, Retired** Former Chief Public Defender Sangamon County
Wendell Robinson Executive Director Restore Justice Foundation	**Nathan Rowland** Chief Public Defender Hamilton & Gallatin Counties
Jeffrey York Chief Public Defender DuPage County	**Nick Zimmerman** Chief Public Defender Winnebago County

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