

UNITED STATES COURTS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT
OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE
THURGOOD MARSHALL UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007
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DEBRA ANN LIVINGSTON
CHIEF JUDGE

MICHAEL D. JORDAN
CIRCUIT EXECUTIVE

Press Release: Selection of Charles F. Willson to Serve as Federal Public Defender for the District of Connecticut

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New York, March 25, 2026—Chief Judge Debra Ann Livingston of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit announced today that the Court of Appeals will appoint Charles F. Willson as the Federal Public Defender for the District of Connecticut. Chief Judge Livingston stated, “We are so pleased to appoint Mr. Willson as the Federal Public Defender for the District of Connecticut. Mr. Willson has demonstrated an impressive commitment to public service and indigent defense over many years in the District of Connecticut and has extensive experience as a federal criminal defense attorney. We are confident that Mr. Willson will be a strong leader of this terrific Office.”

Mr. Willson has served as an Assistant Federal Defender in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Connecticut since 2015. Prior to joining the Office, Mr. Willson was in private practice as a partner with Nevins Law Group, LLC, and before that, as an associate with Pepe & Hazard, LLC and Testa, Hurwitz, & Thibault, LLP. While in private practice, Mr. Willson was a member of the Criminal Justice Act Panels for the District of Connecticut and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals for over ten years, as well as for the First Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Willson has served as an adjunct professor teaching Evidence at the University of Connecticut School of Law since 2022.

Mr. Willson received his B.A., cum laude, from Saint Joseph’s University and received his J.D., magna cum laude, from Boston College Law School. Following law school, Mr. Willson served as a law clerk to Judge John T. Broderick of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire.

Mr. Willson will assume his duties on April 1, 2026.