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The  
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of **Philadelphia, Inc.**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT OF THE BARRISTERS' ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA, INC. REGARDING THE FIRING OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDERS**

On February 26, the Montgomery County Commissioners [fired](#) the leaders of the County's Public Defenders Office, Chief Dean Beer and Deputy Chief Keisha Hudson. The firings came shortly after the County forced the Defenders Office to withdraw [an amicus brief](#) that described the unfairness and harm caused by the County's cash bail practices.

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia joins the [ACLU of Pennsylvania](#), the [Public Interest Law Center](#), and [other organizations](#) in condemning these firings, and calls upon the Montgomery County Commissioners to reinstate Mr. Beer and Ms. Hudson immediately and to provide a full and complete accounting as to how and why this decision was made and whether or not the filing of the *amicus* brief was a factor in the firing of Mr. Beer and Ms. Hudson.

These firings strike at the heart of public defenders' ability to independently advocate on behalf of indigent clients, too many of whom are disproportionately black and brown, free from political interference.

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia urges its members residing in Montgomery County to contact the Montgomery County Commissioners at (610) 278-3020 to demand answers and the reinstatement of Mr. Beer and Ms. Hudson. Those interested may also participate in the "Defend the Defenders" [rally](#) scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at 1 Montgomery Plaza, Norristown, Pennsylvania 19401.

**ABOUT THE BARRISTERS' ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA, INC.**

The Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc., an affiliate of the National Bar Association, encompasses over 1,000 attorneys who serve in private and public sectors of the legal profession. Visit [www.phillybarristers.com](http://www.phillybarristers.com); email [phillybarristers@gmail.com](mailto:phillybarristers@gmail.com); follow us @BarristersPA.

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