

Division of Criminal Justice

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY



At a Glance

KEVIN T. KANE, *Chief State's Attorney*

John J. Russotto, *Deputy Chief State's Attorney for Personnel, Finance and Administration*

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Established - 1973

Constitutional authority - Article XXIII of the amendments to the Connecticut Constitution.

Statutory authority - General Statutes §§51-276 and 51-277

Central office - 300 Corporate Place, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Number of employees - 487 (positions authorized) - 473 (positions filled)

Recurring operating expenses - \$52.4 million (all sources)

Organizational structure - The Division of Criminal Justice is composed of the Office of the Chief State's Attorney and one State's Attorney's office for each of the state's thirteen Judicial Districts.

Mission

The Division of Criminal Justice is the agency within the Executive branch of government responsible for investigating and prosecuting all criminal matters, both in adult and juvenile courts, in the State of Connecticut. The agency also represents the state in all appellate, post-trial and post-conviction proceedings arising from the prosecution of criminal matters.

Improvements/Achievements 2013-2014

Prosecutors and Inspectors assigned to the Division's Cold Case Bureau completed an 18-month grand jury investigation that resulted in the arrests of more than a dozen persons

associated with a violent narcotics trafficking organization in Hartford. The arrests relate to four murders and six shootings that are connected to the gang. In the course of the investigation, prosecutors uncovered evidence that a person incarcerated for one of murders was, in fact, innocent. That information was made known to the court and the person subsequently was released from custody. Cold Case Bureau efforts were augmented by the work of cold case analysts secured via federal grant funding.

The State's Attorneys' Offices continued their efforts to combat violent crime and protect Connecticut's citizens. As one example, prosecutors in the Waterbury Judicial District obtained murder convictions against two men in separate trials for the senseless 2010 election day murder of a Waterbury man who was attacked while walking to volunteer at the polls.

In an important case involving the application of Connecticut's death penalty, Division attorneys successfully demonstrated that the imposition of death sentences has not been tainted by impermissible racial disparity.

Since 2003 the Division has conducted an Annual Professional Development Program for prosecutors. 220 Division personnel attended 2014's intensive program highlighting Ethical Principles in Prosecution. This training was supplemented by targeted development sessions held regionally throughout the state, covering all thirteen Judicial Districts, with topics ranging from Crime Scene Investigation and Drug-Endangered Children to Gang Issues and the Process of Custodial Arrest.

Division personnel participated in 414 other training efforts, including Domestic Violence and Risk Assessment, the Use of Social Media in Investigations, DUI Training and Trial Advocacy, Active Shooter/Workplace Violence Training, Homicide Investigation Training, Mobile Devices and Law Enforcement, Trial Practice Techniques, Forensics in Court, Gun Legislation Updates, Eyewitness Identification, Gang Identification and Drug Detection, and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in Connecticut. In addition, since January 2014 the Division has regularly participated in a series of Judicial Branch Court Security Committee meetings, attended by multiple agencies, to address security and hostile incidents in the courthouses.

The Division's highly successful internship program provided educational opportunities to 61 students, 47 of whom are law students representing fifteen schools and schools of law, including Quinnipiac University Law, Harvard Law School, Duke University, Villanova Law, William & Mary Law, Boston College and the University of Connecticut School of Law.

The Greater New Britain Shooting Task Force, a partnership between the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, Office of the New Britain State's Attorney, New Britain Police Department, the Connecticut State Departments of Correction, Probation and Parole, and the Hartford, Central Connecticut State University, Bristol, Southington, Newington and Berlin police departments, demonstrated positive results from its first year of operation. According to the New Britain Police Department, the task force made more than 400 arrests, obtained 30 search and seizure warrants (mostly for firearms and narcotics) and seized more than 80 firearms. Shooting Task Forces established in Hartford (2011) and New Haven (2012) also have assisted those cities in reducing firearms-related violence.

Using federal funds provided to the Connecticut Labor Department for integrity initiatives, the Division has established an Unemployment Compensation Fraud Bureau to combat fraud against government assistance programs. Two inspectors and a prosecutor work with the Department of Labor to identify cases of deliberate fraud and then obtain arrest warrants following a thorough investigation. Cases are also compiled from public tips, as well from integrity software and surveillance tools. In FY 2014, the newly-formed Bureau alone made 51 arrests of persons who committed fraud against the state and recovered over \$1.4 million in fraudulent payments.

The Division, with its significant caseload,* continued to seek out innovative means to further its public safety mission despite ongoing budgetary pressures. Under the guidance of its Administrative Staff and utilizing seven separate federal grants the Division is continuing to upgrade its information technology infrastructure as well as design and implement an internal Case Management System that will minimize case processing time, eliminate redundant data, and streamline reporting. This will mark the first time in its history that the agency possesses an electronic database of case activity.

*In FY 2012, the Division processed over 710,000 criminal/motor vehicle case events, with more than 297,000 such cases added. Pending criminal cases have risen 10.3% since 2007.

The Division is proud of its ongoing cooperation with the Connecticut Innocence Project in regard to the testing of potentially exculpatory DNA evidence, with the two entities having reviewed over 150 cases. Such collaborative work continues under a renewed federal grant awarded by the United States Department of Justice to the Division of Criminal Justice, Division of Public Defender Services, and the Department of Public Safety Forensic Science Laboratory.