

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 - 498 (positions authorized) - 470 (positions filled)

Recurring operating expenses - \$52.9 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 2014-2015

Prosecutors and Inspectors assigned to the Division's Cold Case Bureau prosecuted several

cases that were solved during 18-month grand jury investigation of one of Hartford's most violent narcotics organizations. The investigation has yielded arrests of more than a dozen persons for their involvement in four murders and six shootings. 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. The most significant prosecution involved the leader of that gang who was convicted after trial of murder and sentenced to 60 years in prison.

The State's Attorneys' Offices continued their efforts to combat violent crime and protect Connecticut's citizens. 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.

One of the more significant prosecutions in 2014 involved the conviction of former State Senator Ernest Newton. Following trial, Newton was convicted of election law violations for using "straw" contributors to meet eligibility requirements to obtain matching state monies under the Citizens Election Program in pursuit of his failed effort to return to the General Assembly.

Since 2003 the Division has conducted an Annual Professional Development Program for prosecutors. 228 Division personnel attended 2015's intensive program regarding Mobile Devices in Prosecution and National Developments in Cybercrime featuring an address by the Deputy Director of the National Computer Forensics Institute. This training was supplemented by targeted development sessions held throughout the state, covering all thirteen Judicial Districts, with topics ranging from Child Sexual Abuse Prosecution, Gang Issues, and Appellate Focus to Targeted Monitoring of Inmate Correspondence, Developments in Eyewitness Identification Testimony, and State vs. Federal Prosecution in Drug Cases and Violent Crimes. Utilizing federal STOP Violence Against Women funding, the Division, in conjunction with the University of New Haven, held a conference on Connecticut's Response to Strangulation, attended by 120 individuals from the criminal justice and service provider communities

Division personnel participated in 466 other training efforts, including Self Defense and Dual Arrests in Domestic Violence Cases, Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying, Prosecuting Child Pornography Cases, training on Victim Lethality Review, Sexual Violence Prevention and Intervention, The Link Between Animal Cruelty and Domestic Violence, Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations, Evidence for Fire Investigations, Synthetic Marijuana, Campus Sexual Assault, Technical Evidence in Stalking Prosecutions, Gang Related Violence, Conspiracy Law Training, Financial Crimes Against Seniors, Protective Order Practice, Restorative Justice Principles, DUI Investigation, and the Co-Occurring Matrix of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders. In addition, the Division added focused volumes on Family Violence and Victim's Rights to its Prosecutor's Deskbook, the basic training and reference manual for Division of Criminal Justice prosecutors.

The Division's highly successful internship program provided educational opportunities to 49 students, 37 of whom are law students, representing eighteen schools and schools of law, including Yale Law, Quinnipiac University Law, Harvard University, Wake Forest School of Law, Pace

University School of Law, University of Iowa School of Law, University of Minnesota Law School, Connecticut College and the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Using federal funds provided to the Connecticut Labor Department for integrity initiatives, the Division 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. Since its inception two years ago the Bureau has made more than 100 arrests and has obtained over \$900,000 in restitution for the State of Connecticut.

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 2015 , the Division processed over 703,000 criminal/motor vehicle case events, with more than 292,000 such cases added. The number of Motor Vehicle cases is 5.9% higher than in FY14 and 8% higher than in FY13.

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 under federal grants 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. No verdicts were invalidated. The Division is also pleased to broaden and support the efforts of its Cold Case Bureau through the acquisition of federal funding for Solving Cold Cases with DNA.