

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*

Leonard C. Boyle, *Deputy Chief State's Attorney for Operations*

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: 486 (positions authorized) - 443 (positions filled)

Recurring operating expenses - \$50.5 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 2016-2017

Prosecutors and Inspectors assigned to the Division's Cold Case Bureau continued their success in solving and prosecuting previously-unsolved murders. Since its inception in 2011 the Cold Case Bureau has solved over 20 previously-unsolved homicides and obtained convictions of more than two dozen violent offenders. Two notable cases in 2016-17 involved unsolved murders

in the City of Hartford. Working with our partners at the United States Attorney's Office, Bureau prosecutors brought federal murder charges against five men for the 2009 murder of Charles Teasley. The Bureau also has charged another defendant with the murders of three Hartford residents in separate incidents in 2008. The Cold Case Bureau also maintained its investigations into numerous other murders, many of which occurred in inner-city neighborhoods that have suffered so grievously from violent crime. Much of this work was done in concert with the state forensic sciences laboratory pursuant to a federal grant.

The Unemployment Compensation Fraud Bureau of the Chief State's Attorney's Office continued its remarkable efforts to combat fraud abuse in 2017. Since being formed in 2014, the Bureau has arrested more than 200 persons who defrauded the state of 5.5 million dollars. Those prosecutions have yielded \$1.8 million dollars in recoveries that have been returned to the state's unemployment fund.

Since 2003 the Division has conducted an Annual Professional Development Program for prosecutors. Over 200 Division personnel attended 2017's intensive program which included a multi-part presentation by the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's Division of Scientific Services covering topics including computer crimes, latent prints, gunshot residue, case management, and paint and firearms analyses. The Annual Development Program also featured a session on ethics in digital evidence cases and a presentation on the role of the prosecutor by Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane. This training was supplemented by targeted development sessions held throughout the state, covering all thirteen Judicial Districts, with topics ranging from training on Aseptic Techniques for Trace Evidence and Advancements in ID Evidence to Dive Team Rescue and Recovery Techniques to Homeland Security and INS Issues, a Special Presentation by the Board of Pardons and Parole, and Prosecution of Defendants with Mental Health Issues.

Division personnel participated in 390 other training efforts, including Commercial Sexual Exploitation Prevention, Human Trafficking, Strangulation – Prelude to Homicide, Campus Sexual Assault, Provision of training on Policing and Prosecuting Impaired Driving Cases, Initial Response and Investigation of Child Deaths, Use of Experts in Child Sexual Abuse Cases, Neurobiology of Trauma in Children, Family Focused Juvenile Justice, No Body Homicide Seminar, Financial Crimes Against Seniors, UCONN Conference on Hate Crimes, Social Network Training for Prosecutors, Provision of training on Street Law, Justice Innovation in Times of Change, Current Drug Trends and Connecticut's Response to Opioids, Drugged Driving Summit, Medial Marijuana, Media and the Courtroom, Diversity Symposium at UCONN Law, Social Policy from the Prosecution Perspective, The Community and Law Enforcement, Observation of the Red Hook Community Court, Computer Forensics in Court, Recidivism and Adolescent Brain Development, Witness Intimidation, The Law of Statements and Eyewitness ID, Evidence Collection in Arson Cases, National Security and Domestic Surveillance Law, OUI School, Body Worn Cameras, Link Between Animal Abuse and Domestic Abuse, Disordered Gambling and the Criminal Justice System, DNA Training, Rage and Policing in America, International Conference on Crimes Against Women, Spotlight on Fraud, Gang ID and Drug Detection, and the Office of the Governor's: Reimagining Justice.

The Division's highly successful internship program provided educational opportunities to 51 students, 23 of whom are law students, representing 17 schools and 12 schools of law, including

Bar Ilan University Law School, Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law, Michigan State University College of Law, Quinnipiac University School of Law, Seton Hall Law School, Syracuse University School of Law, the University of Connecticut School of Law, the University of Illinois College of Law, the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Vermont Law School, Western New England University School of Law and Yale Law School.

Pursuant to changes set forth in Practice Book Section 2-27A, the Division, with the input of the Connecticut Association of Prosecutors, revised its Professional Development Policy to align with new Minimum Continuing Legal Education Standards.

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 the Division is continuing to upgrade its information technology infrastructure. Significant progress was made in the development and implementation of an internal Case Management System that will minimize case processing time, eliminate redundant data, and streamline reporting. The case management project has selected a vendor to shepherd the transition to E-Prosecutor and has begun the design phase. This will mark the first time in its history that the agency possesses an electronic database of case activity.

*In FY 2016, the Division processed over 670,000 criminal/motor vehicle case events, with more than 283,000 such cases added.

Utilizing over \$200,000 in support from the Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation, and with the assistance of the Center for Court Innovation, the Division built upon a landmark study of first appearance practices and created a pilot project in the Bridgeport and Waterbury Geographical Area Courts to provide a special focus on opportunities for early screening, assessment and diversion. The legislature has recognized the validity of this concept and passed Public Act No. 17-205 -*An Act Establishing a Pilot Program to Provide Enhanced Community Services to Those in the Criminal Justice System*, wherein “the office of the Chief State's Attorney shall establish a pilot program to serve the geographical area courts for Hartford, New Haven, New London and Norwich in the judicial districts of Hartford, New Haven and New London in identifying and tracking the homeless, addicted or mentally ill persons entering the criminal justice system.”