Division of Criminal Justice
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY
300 CORPORATE PLACE, ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT 06067

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 **- 490 (positions authorized) - 474 (positions filled)**
Recurring operating expenses **- $53.8 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.**

Agency 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 2015-2016

Prosecutors and Inspectors assigned to the Division's Cold Case Bureau continued their success in solving and prosecuting previously-unsolved murders. In September 2015, Division prosecutors, working with the United States Attorney's Office, obtained a conviction for arson

murder in the 2006 death of Kathy Hardy, a Branford resident. This case had been unsolved for almost a decade before the combined efforts of the Cold Case Bureau and the Federal Bureau of Investigation brought the investigation to a successful conclusion. The Bureau also maintained its investigations into numerous other murders - obtaining convictions in several cases - many of which occurred in inner-city neighborhoods that have suffered so grievously from violent crime.

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.

During FY 2016 the Unemployment Compensation Fraud Bureau of the Chief State's Attorney's Office made the 200th arrest in its brief tenure of less than three years. All these arrests involve persons who defrauded the state Unemployment Compensation Fund by receiving benefits to which they were not entitled. These arrests, and the deterrence that they undoubtedly engendered, have saved the state hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Appellate Bureau of the Chief State's Attorney's Office also continued its outstanding work on behalf of the Connecticut's citizens. The Bureau's principled and aggressive advocacy helped Connecticut's Appellate courts reach a number of sound decisions regarding the sentencing of juvenile offenders, an area of the law that has seen drastic changes based on United States Supreme Court decisions and advances in the study of brain development.

Since 2003 the Division has conducted an Annual Professional Development Program for prosecutors. 228 Division personnel attended 2016's intensive program which included a half-day session on implicit bias in the criminal justice system. This session, mandatory for all prosecutors, focused on how attitudes towards people, or associated stereotypes, without our conscious knowledge may impact the criminal justice system. Topics included the role of the prosecutor, witness and the juror. The interactive training was led by Professor Rachel Godsil, a nationally recognized expert on the issue, and included a presentation on the Fair and Impartial Policing program that is being used by many police departments in Connecticut. This training was supplemented by targeted development sessions held throughout the state, covering all thirteen Judicial Districts, with topics ranging from training on a virtual use of force simulator to Hearsay and Charging Decisions to Forensics to Appellate Fundamentals of Charging. Utilizing federal STOP Violence Against Women funding, the Division, in conjunction with Safe Futures, held a conference on Strangulation in Intimate Partner Violence, attended by 120 individuals from the criminal justice and service provider communities.

Division personnel participated in 425 other training efforts, including MADD Victim Impact Panel, Computer Forensics in Court for Prosecutors, Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, Animal Abuse as The Violence Gateway, Bloodstain Pattern Analysis, Champions for Children Conference, Investigating and Prosecuting Elder Abuse, Advanced Human Trafficking Investigations, Mobile Devices for Prosecutors, Financial Crimes Against Seniors, Policing and Prosecuting Impaired Drivers, Distracted Driving in Connecticut, Provision of a Before You Text Curriculum at the Middletown Superior Court, Child Sexual Abuse: Predators and Relationship to Victims, Sexual Deviance in the New Millennium, A Conversation about Race and Criminal Justice Reform, Using Asset Forfeiture to Recover Money for Victims of Crime, Identifying the Defendant with Mental Illness, Community Justice International Summit,

LBGTQ Youth Issues and the Law, National Cyber Crime Conference, Provision of Training to the Opioid Prevention Workgroup, Gang ID and Drug Detection, Social Media Training, Navigating Connecticut's Medical Marijuana Law, and Building Bridges – Setting a Course for a Second Chance Society.

The Division's highly successful internship program provided educational opportunities to 51 students, 38 of whom are law students, representing 22 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 College of Law, University of Minnesota Law School, Bar Ilan University Law School, the United States Airforce Academy, 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 2016 , the Division processed over <u>670,000</u> criminal/motor vehicle case events, with more than <u>283,000</u> such cases added.

The Division, with $100,000 in support from the Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation, and with the assistance of the Center for Court Innovation embarked a study of first appearance practices with a special focus on opportunities for early screening, assessment and diversion. This effort dovetailed with the Division's participation in the State's successful acquisition of a $2.5 million MacArthur Foundation *Safety and Justice Challenge* award.