

Chief State's Attorney's Meeting

Office of the Chief State's Attorney
Kevin T. Kane Training Center
300 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill, CT

Minutes of the Meeting of November 5, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 p.m. by Chief State's Attorney Patrick J. Griffin.

Also present: Deputy Chief State's Attorney of Administration, Personnel and Finance John J. Russotto; Deputy Chief State's Attorney of Operations Lisa M. D'Angelo; State's Attorneys Margaret E. Kelley (Ansonia/Milford); Joseph T. Corradino (Bridgeport) Sharmese L. Walcott (Hartford); David R. Shannon (Litchfield); Michael A. Gailor (Middlesex); John P. Doyle, Jr. (New Haven), Paul J. Narducci (New London); Craig P. Nowak (Tolland); Maureen T. Platt (Waterbury) and John F. Fahey (Windham).

Also present: Executive Assistant State's Attorneys Matthew C. Gedansky and Gail P. Hardy; Supervisory Assistant State's Attorneys David Kutzner and Andrew J. Slitt; Senior Assistant State's Attorney Timothy J. Sugrue; Manager of Research and Planning Kyle Baudoin; Director of Information Technology Naveen Prathikantam; Chief Inspector Michael Sullivan and Marisa DePhillips, Executive Secretary to the Chief State's Attorney.

Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto moved to accept the minutes of the October 1, 2025 meeting. State's Attorney Kelley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto reported on budget issues, saying there will be a push to fill vacancies, especially non-prosecutor positions, which had been held open due to last year's budget constraints, with the goal being to meet the state's "holdback" number while also pushing to fill needed positions. Of the 10 new positions approved by the legislature, the prosecutor positions are filled, and five data-entry positions are pending due to union issues but are expected to be posted and filled before the holidays.

Chief State's Attorney Griffin and Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto reported that the next Criminal Justice Commission would be held on November 21, 2025, at which time interviews would be held for prospective candidates for Deputy Assistant State's Attorneys in the appellate bureau. Chief State's Attorney Griffin said moving forward, any request for a special appointment must include a short write-up explaining the vetting process and why the candidate is a good fit.

Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto and Executive Assistant State's Attorney Hardy reported that the Division's fellowship program continues to be a strong recruitment tool, with many of the fellows becoming hires. Interviews for the current fellowship round are scheduled for two dates in November. There was discussion about the importance of

consistency in the vetting process and early screening in an effort to get the best-qualified candidates.

Regarding outreach, there was discussion about the Division's appellate and prosecution clinics at both Quinnipiac and UConn law schools. Clinics are available for both day and night students and a new daytime appellate clinic at UConn is being piloted. The State's Attorneys were encouraged to serve as guest lecturers and engage with students, as these efforts have proven effective in recruiting future prosecutors.

In other business, the State's Attorneys discussed incarcerated defendants refusing to appear in court despite court orders and a new state Department of Correction policy regarding the review of discovery materials on a secure, offline computer by those who are incarcerated. The State's Attorneys were advised to be aware of this policy and to coordinate with presiding judges to limit inappropriate access.

Regarding legislative matters, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Kutzner reminded State's Attorneys that the Special Litigation and Legislative Affairs Unit is still seeking legislation suggestions for next year's session. He reported that a special legislative session would begin on November 12, 2025.

Chief State's Attorney Griffin then introduced special guests David X. Sullivan, United States Attorney, David E. Novick, First Assistant United States Attorney and Jocelyn C. Kaoutzanis, Assistant United States Attorney and Criminal Chief, who discussed various topics related to their office. When they concluded, Chief State's Attorney Griffin thanked them for their presentation.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto and seconded by State's Attorney Narducci. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.