

State's Attorney's Advisory Meeting – January 8, 2025

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:33 pm by Ansonia/Milford SA Margaret Kelly.

Present included: Chief State's Attorney Patrick Griffin; Deputy Chief State's Attorney Kevin Lawlor, Deputy Chief State's Attorney John Russotto; Inspector General Robert Devlin; Criminal Justice Commission member Scott Murphy; State's Attorneys David Applegate (Danbury); John Doyle (New Haven), Paul Ferencek (Stamford/Norwalk), Michael Gailor (Middlesex), Matthew Gedansky (Tolland), Anne Mahoney (Windham), Paul Narducci (New London), Maureen Platt (Waterbury), David Shannon (Litchfield), Sharmese Walcott (Hartford), Christian Watson (New Britain); Executive Assistant State's Attorneys Lisa D'Angelo; Kathryn Bare; Supervisory Assistant State's Attorneys David Kutzner; Vincent Duva, Senior Assistant State's Attorney Timothy Sugrue; Chief Inspector Michael Sullivan, Kyle Baudoin, Manager of Research and Planning, Communications Director Alaine Griffin; Legislative Liaison Anne Cournoyer and Executive Secretary Marisa DePhillips.

MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from the December 4, 2024 Advisory Board meeting was made by SA Paul Narducci and was seconded by SA Paul Ferencek. It passed unanimously.

MANAGEMENT

DCSA John Russotto reported on updated Division job descriptions for DCJ employees. He disseminated drafts for the positions of (1) Secretary 1; (2) Paralegal Specialist; and (3) Litigation Support Specialist. DCSA Russotto requested that the State's Attorneys review the drafts and provide feedback for the next Advisory Board meeting. He also sought feedback on changing the title of the Secretary 1 position to Administrative Assistant.

OPERATIONS

SA Maureen Platt reported there was no meeting of the Operations Committee in December due to the holidays.

EASA Katie Bare reported that the Division continues to work on a policy regarding the transfer of cases when conflicts arise. CSA Griffin indicated that the policy would likely require the jurisdictions to be teamed based on geographical proximity. This would be similar to how the Division reviews potential attorney/client privilege violations.

The issue of how best to proceed when defendants charged with minor misdemeanor offenses are committed to the custody of DMPHAS for competency restoration purposes was discussed. A policy is expected to be forthcoming. That policy would require the State's Attorney's to review the file to determine if further prosecution is appropriate. If not, the case should be nolle and the restoration process aborted. SA Paul Narducci offered insight into this issue given the case of State v. Jane Doe, which emanated out of his jurisdiction.

Finally, EASA Bare indicated that she would be reviewing DCJ policy 514 concerning the Trust Act. She intends to Shepardize the act to see if any new relevant case law exists. CSA Griffin noted that the Division is not technically subject to the Trust Act.

TRAINING

EASA Lisa D'Angelo reported that she was finalizing the agenda for the 2025 Division-wide training seminar. There was discussion as to whether the current practice of offering optional local training for one of the two days should continue. Attorney DeAngelo reported that in 2024 the Division offered 250 hours of training for prosecutors.

PEER REVIEW UPDATE

CSA Griffin indicated he would be meeting with those State's Attorney's who are up for reappointment in July 2025.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

SA Ferencek reported he has a potential conflict involving a retired Stamford Police Captain who may be arrested on a harassment charge. He indicated he is awaiting a revised arrest warrant affidavit from the Stamford Police.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 12:56 by SA Ann Mahoney. DCSA Russotto seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

SA Paul J. Ferencek
Stamford/Norwalk JD