

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 September 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 12:41 p.m. by Chief State's Attorney Patrick J. Griffin.

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

Also present: Executive Assistant State's Attorneys Kathryn W. Bare, Matthew C. Gedansky and Gail P. Hardy; Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney David Kutzner; Senior Assistant State's Attorney Timothy J. Sugrue; Legislative Liaison Anne Cournoyer; Manager of Research and Planning Kyle Baudoin; 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 August 13, 2025 meeting. State's Attorney Narducci seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regarding budget matters, Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto reported on support staff and inspector vacancies, saying the Division plans to reach out to offices with vacancies to confirm whether the positions are still operationally needed or if there are plans to reclassify them. Though some of those roles were previously on hold due to last fiscal year's budget issues, he said those same issues no longer apply this year.

Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto reported that the Criminal Justice Commission in September hired six new Deputy Assistant State's Attorneys, three each for the judicial districts of Hartford and Waterbury, bringing the number of prosecutor vacancies down to about 20, a significant improvement he said considering last year's hiring freeze. He said more hires are expected at the next meeting in October. Chief State's Attorney Griffin reported that the Commission also appointed two Special Deputy Assistant State's Attorneys. The State's Attorneys discussed the various staffing needs they have in their judicial districts and said they are actively interviewing and screening candidates for upcoming interviews.

Regarding recruitment, Executive Assistant State's Attorney Hardy reported that the class of 2025 fellows began work recently in offices throughout the Division. Applications for the 2026 class of fellows recently opened and will close on October 6.

Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Kutzner reported that both the 2025 John M. Bailey Seminar legal updates and the report on the 2025 legislative session are complete.

Chief State's Attorney Griffin reported that there is ongoing discussion about the possible further expansion of Connecticut's Trust Act to align with other states by prohibiting civil immigration detainees from being executed in state facilities, including courthouses. He said questions were raised about the state's authority to restrict federal enforcement actions in courthouses, especially regarding civil detainees and that there are concerns about federal agencies removing defendants on serious charges before state prosecution is complete, potentially undermining justice for victims. He said it was still unclear whether a special legislative session would be called to discuss the matter.

Legislative Liaison Cournoyer told the State's Attorneys that the Special Litigation and Legislative Affairs Unit would be sending out a Google form seeking suggestions for next year's legislative session. She said the Unit met recently with officials with the Department of Transportation to discuss an ongoing legislative proposal to lower the legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit for drivers from 0.08 percent to 0.05 percent.

Regarding training, Deputy Chief State's Attorney D'Angelo said the annual John M. Bailey Seminar, a half-day event focused on new legal developments shaping police policies and practices, would be held on September 16, 2025, at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

Chief State's Attorney Griffin discussed the increase in highway traffic deaths, extreme speeding, reckless driving and pedestrian deaths over the past several years. Recognizing the public safety issue posed by such behavior, Chief State's Attorney Griffin urged the State's Attorneys to closely monitor the handling and disposition of infractions in their respective jurisdictions.

The State's Attorneys also discussed the Online Ticket Review Program that screens motor vehicle cases before they reach court. The discussion included how some jurisdictions are handling their own screenings, and that the central office is open to stepping back if local offices prefer to take over the cases entirely. The State's Attorneys also discussed the documentation of Commercial Driver's License (CDL)-related infractions. There also was discussion about the use of bond forfeitures to resolve infractions.

During discussion about plans by the Judicial Branch to move toward virtual hearings for all infractions, the State's Attorneys said they would like the Judicial Branch to include them in those discussions.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by State's Attorney Walcott and seconded by Chief State's Attorney Griffin. The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.
