

Chief State's Attorney Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of October 2, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 1 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 Kevin D. Lawlor; State's Attorneys Margaret E. Kelley (Ansonia/Milford), David R. Applegate (Danbury), Sharmese L. Walcott (Hartford), David R. Shannon (Litchfield), Michael A. Gailor (Middlesex), Christian Watson (New Britain), John P. Doyle, Jr. (New Haven), Paul J. Narducci (New London), Paul J. Ferencek (Stamford/Norwalk), Matthew C. Gedansky (Tolland), Maureen T. Platt (Waterbury) and Anne F. Mahoney (Windham).

Also present: Executive Assistant State's Attorneys Kathryn W. Bare, Lisa M. D'Angelo and Gail P. Hardy, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorneys David Kutzner and Vincent Duva; Senior Assistant State's Attorney Timothy J. Sugrue; Manager of Research and Planning Kyle Baudoin; Legislative Liaison Anne Cournoyer, Director of Information Technology Naveen Prathikantam and Marisa DePhillips, Executive Secretary to the Chief State's Attorney.

State's Attorney Kelley moved to accept the minutes of the September 4, 2024 meeting. State's Attorney Doyle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Guests from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection – Commissioner Ronnell A. Higgins, Deputy Commissioner Colonel Daniel Loughman and Sarah P. Karwan, Counsel to the Commissioner - met with the State's Attorneys to discuss a variety of topics related to the criminal justice system. There also was discussion about the importance of improved technology and the staffing needed to comply with recent legislative mandates regarding law enforcement's use of body-worn cameras and the creation of centrally located electronic case management systems to replace paper-based case management methods.

Regarding budget matters, Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto said the Division is planning to make two requests to the Joint Committee on Appropriations to fund positions needed to meet recent legislative mandates regarding prosecutorial transparency and police accountability. The Division will be seeking 21 positions to review body-worn camera and dashboard recording devices, 19 data-entry operators to handle the day-to-day case volume and data reporting in each Geographical Area court for the Division's Case Management System and one supervisor position to oversee these operations.

In regard to recruitment, Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto reported that Executive Assistant State's Attorney Hardy has interviewed UConn law students for summer legal internships and will soon be conducting interviews for fellowships.

Executive Assistant State's Attorney D'Angelo reported on several upcoming training seminars and sessions, including training for Inspectors on Risk Protection Orders and Electronic Monitoring Training at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney in Rocky Hill on October 3, 2024 and October 29, 2024, the Evidence Academy at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney on Wednesdays from October 16, 2024 through December 18, 2024, and the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice's 2024 Detective School at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney from October 21, 2024 through October 25, 2024. Also at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, there will be PSRB training on November 14, 2024, Prosecuting Sexual Assault Cases I November 21-22, 2024 and Prosecution Training, also known as "boot camp" for Deputy Assistant State's Attorneys on various days in December.

Executive Assistant State's Attorney D'Angelo also reported that the Division will be holding its inaugural Division of Criminal Justice Civilian Academy from October 28, 2024, through December 16, 2024.

Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Kutzner said the Legislative Committee met on September 25, 2024 and is planning another meeting for October 17, 2024. He said the deadline for Division members to submit legislative proposals is October 11, 2024.

Chief State's Attorney Griffin reported that the next Criminal Justice Commission meeting would be held on October 3, 2024. At that time, prospective Deputy Assistant State's Attorneys will be interviewed to fill vacancies in the Judicial Districts of Waterbury and Bridgeport. Two Special Deputy Assistant State's Attorney candidates also would also be considered for conditional appointment.

In other business, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Kutzner reported that the Connecticut Judicial Branch is looking to speak with prosecutors regarding the branch's plan to start online hearings for commercial driving license infractions with the intention that eventually, all contested infraction hearings would be handled remotely, and State's Attorney Narducci discussed the subject of State v. Jane Doe, which had been recently decided by the Connecticut Supreme Court. There was discussion on the merits of the case and what should be done in similar situations in the future. As a result, the Operations Committee was tasked with preparing a memo addressing the issue.

Deputy Chief State's Attorney Lawlor thanked the 13 State's Attorneys for filling out and submitting a survey created by the Offender Programs subcommittee for the Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council. He reported that the Division's domestic violence roundtable led by Executive Assistant State's Attorney Hardy would be held on October 15, 2024.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by State's Attorney Kelley and seconded by State's Attorney Ferencek. The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.