

Chief State's Attorney Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of December 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 12:47 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; Deputy Chief State's Attorney, Inspector General Robert J. Devlin, Jr.; State's Attorneys Margaret E. Kelley (Ansonia/Milford),; David R. Applegate (Danbury), Sharmese L. Walcott (Hartford), David R. Shannon (Litchfield), State's Attorney 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; Senior Assistant State's Attorney Timothy J. Sugrue; Manager of Research and Planning Kyle Baudoin; Legislative Liaison Anne Cournoyer, Chief Inspector Michael Sullivan and Marisa DePhillips, Executive Secretary to the Chief State's Attorney.

State's Attorney Kelley moved to accept the minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting. Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regarding budget matters, Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto said the Division is preparing now that the Office of Policy and Management has told executive branch agencies to pull back on spending during the second half of the current fiscal year. As a result, only the most mission-critical vacancies will be backfilled. He also said grant money for temporary positions for data-entry workers and per diem prosecutors would no longer be available as of December 31, 2024.

Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto said the Criminal Justice Commission planned to meet on December 5, 2024 to discuss the scheduling of upcoming reappointment hearings.

In regard to recruitment, Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto reported that the Division has interviewed candidates for internships and fellowships and is currently preparing a list of finalists.

Legislative Liaison Cournoyer and Chief State's Attorney Griffin reported on legislative matters saying that the Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council asked the Division to consult on possible changes to the state's hate crime statute that could be discussed during the next legislative session which begins in January 2025. Legislative Liaison

Cournoyer also said the Division would be meeting in December with the Connecticut Retail Network to discuss organized retail thefts.

Executive Assistant State's Attorney D'Angelo reported on ongoing and upcoming training at the Division, adding that as of December 4, 2024, the Division has provided 570 hours of training since the creation in July 2022 of the Division's Office of Ethics and Professional Standards.

In other business, Deputy Chief State's Attorney Lawlor reported on a summary he prepared regarding a recent audit by the state Auditors of Public Accounts on the dispositions of domestic violence cases, and State's Attorney Narducci pointed out that the minutes of the October 2024 Chief State's Attorney meeting did not include reference to an issue raised in that meeting. Specifically in that meeting, State's Attorney Narducci raised 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. State's Attorney Narducci moved that the October minutes be amended to reflect this discussion.

State's Attorneys welcomed invited guests from the state's Division of Scientific Services, including Dr. Guy M. Vallaro, Director, and Cheryl Carreiro, Deputy Director of Forensic Biology and DNA, Lucinda Jones-Phelan, Deputy Director of the Identification Center, Sevasti Papakanakis, Deputy Director of Forensic Biology and DNA, and Joseph Rainone, Assistant Director of Identification.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto and seconded by State's Attorney Applegate. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.