

Chief State's Attorney Meeting

Office of the Chief State's Attorney
300 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill, CT

Minutes of the Meeting of September 4, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 12:59 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), Joseph T. Corradino (Bridgeport), David R. Applegate (Danbury), 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), Matthew C. Gedansky (Tolland), Maureen T. Platt (Waterbury) and Anne Mahoney (Windham).

Also present: Executive Assistant State's Attorneys Kathryn W. Bare and Gail Hardy, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorneys Helen McClellan, David Kutzner and Vincent Duva; Senior Assistant State's Attorney Timothy J. Sugrue; Manager of Research and Planning Kyle Baudoin; Director of Information Technology Naveen Prathikantam and Chief Inspector Michael Sullivan.

State's Attorney Applegate moved to accept the minutes of the August 7, 2024 meeting. State's Attorney Kelley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Guests from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Boston Field Division - Special Agent in Charge James M. Ferguson, Acting Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jason Schmidt and Resident Agent in Charge Anthony DiPaolo - met with the State's Attorneys to discuss the work of the agency and to inquire about how their field division can assist with investigations.

Regarding budget matters, Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto led a discussion on the best strategies for the Division to mitigate the \$4.2 million holdback in its Fiscal Year 2025 budget. There was additional discussion concerning the Division's inability to fill critical vacancies due to the holdback.

Deputy Chief State's Attorney Russotto 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.

Executive Assistant State's Attorney Hardy provided an update on recruitment and internship opportunities at the Division, reporting that on-campus interviews at law schools for potential candidates for summer 2025 and post-graduate employment would begin soon. Executive Assistant State's Attorney Hardy also reported that the Division has received many inquiries about its prosecutor fellowship program.

Regarding training, Executive Assistant State's Attorney D'Angelo discussed upcoming training sessions and programs including the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice's John M. Bailey Seminar at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain on September 20, 2024, the Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC) Training for Prosecutors at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney in Rocky Hill on September 20, 2024, 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 Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice's 2024 Detective School at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney in Rocky Hill from October 21, 2024 through October 25, 2024 and the seven-class Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice's Civilian Academy at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney in Rocky Hill from October 28, 2024 through December 16, 2024.

In addition, Executive Assistant State's Attorney D'Angelo discussed training at the Connecticut Forensic Science Lab in Meriden on September 9, 2024, held by the FBI in conjunction with the Connecticut Division of Scientific Services, about the preparation of criminal cases involving firearm examinations, and a webinar for prosecutors from the Department of Justice regarding the recently released "Framework for Prosecutors to Strengthen Our National Response to Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Involving Adult Victims."

Executive Assistant State's Attorney D'Angelo said the next in-person Community Engagement Board (CEB) meeting was scheduled for September 17, 2024 in the Kevin T. Kane Training Center at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney in Rocky Hill.

Chief State's Attorney Griffin reported that the National Best Practices conference on "The Prosecutor Office of the Future: Practice and Policy" would be held on October 7-8, 2024 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Regarding legislative matters, it was noted that Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Kutzner recently released the 2024 Legislative Report in Power Point format. Legislative Liaison Cournoyer reported that the Division would soon be sent legislative proposal forms in anticipation of the Connecticut General Assembly 2025 Regular Session. The Legislative Committee is expected to meet at the end of September.

In other business, Director of Information Technology Prathikantam provided an overview of the Division's new external website which is expected to go live on September 10.

Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Kutzner reported that the Connecticut Judicial Branch in January is planning to start online hearings for commercial driving license infractions with the intention that by 2026, all contested infraction hearings would be handled remotely.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Deputy Chief State's Attorney Lawlor and seconded by State's Attorney Corradino. The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.