

Division of Criminal Justice OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY



At a Glance

KEVIN T. KANE, *Chief State's Attorney*

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Established – 1973

Constitutional authority - Article XXIII of the amendments to the Connecticut Constitution.

Statutory authority - General Statutes §§51-276 and 51-277.

Central office - 300 Corporate Place, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Number of employees - 513 (positions authorized) - 495 (positions filled)

Recurring operating expenses - \$45.3 million (all sources)

Organizational structure - The Division of Criminal Justice is composed of the Office of the Chief State's Attorney and one State's Attorney's office for each of the state's thirteen Judicial Districts.

Mission

The Division of Criminal Justice is the agency within the Executive branch of government responsible for investigating and prosecuting all criminal matters, both in adult and juvenile courts, in the State of Connecticut. The agency also represents the state in all appellate, post-trial and post-conviction proceedings arising from the prosecution of criminal matters.

Improvements/Achievements 2010-11

In response to a spike in the number of shooting incidents in Hartford, the Division formed an investigative task force known as the Hartford Shooting Team. Working in conjunction with the Hartford, East Hartford, and West Hartford Police Departments, as well as the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Correction, the Team focuses primarily on non-fatal shootings – incidents which previously did not receive a prompt in-depth investigation due to the need for departments with scarce resources to concentrate on homicide cases. Such an approach has had a synergistic effect, as many non-fatal shootings are interlinked due to gang retaliations and often provide investigators with information regarding homicides.

The Division continues to collect data generated through its implementation of a legislature-sponsored pilot program to record confessions in major felony investigations. Over 1,000 custodial interviews have been recorded, resulting in more than 100 confessions.

Since 2003 the Division has conducted an Annual Training Program for prosecutors. Well over 200 Division personnel attended an enhanced, intensive two-day program in 2011. Featured sessions included training on Driving Under the Influence issues and Victim Impact Panels, a presentation on risk assessment by the Commissioner of the Department of Correction, instruction on cases involving mentally ill defendants, and a session on professionalism and ethics. Other significant training efforts included a one-day Annual Training Program for Inspectors, seminars regarding Forensic Reporting, Computer Forensics, Identification of DNA in Cold Cases, combating Technology-Facilitated Crimes Against Children, Prevention of Violence Against Women, and Domestic Violence Prosecution, as well as the conducting of a Child Abuse Roundtable focusing on Abusive Head Trauma.

The Division's highly successful internship program once again provided educational opportunities to 57 law students representing over 15 schools of law, including Quinnipiac University, New York University, St. John's University, Tulane University and the University of Connecticut.

Founded in 1998, the Division's Cold Case Unit investigates and prosecutes serious crimes that have gone "cold," or unsolved for a long period of time. In furtherance of this mission, the Division has established a new cold case sub-unit in cooperation with six municipal police departments that will work to make arrests in unsolved homicides in Southeastern Connecticut. The new unit, aided by federal funding, is a collaborative venture of the Groton Town, Groton City, New London, Norwich, Stonington and Waterford police departments, the state Department of Correction, Connecticut State Police Eastern District Major Crime Squad, the State's Attorney Office for the Judicial District of New London and the Office of the Chief State's Attorney.

Cold Case efforts will be further bolstered by the operation of a new Cold Case Unit Headquarters located at the Office of the Chief State's Attorney. The Headquarters, created with federal support, will provide modern, efficient facilities and equipment for the Unit as well as preclude the need and expense of the previous offsite facility. The same federal grant provided

space and furnishings for a new Inspectors' Support Center which will optimize training and research capabilities for Division Inspectors.

The Division, with its significant caseload,* continued to seek out innovative means to further its public safety mission despite ongoing budgetary pressures. Under the guidance of its Information Technology Manager and utilizing five separate federal grants the Division is upgrading its information technology infrastructure as well as designing and implementing an internal Case Management System that will minimize case processing time, eliminate redundant data, and streamline reporting. This will mark the first time in its history that the agency possesses an electronic database of case activity. In the further pursuit of optimizing the accuracy of data collection and reporting, the Division continues its federally-funded Audit of Law Enforcement Data Baseline to Criminal History Repository Records project.

*In FY 2010, the Division processed over 635,000 criminal case events, with more than 118,000 criminal cases added. Pending cases have risen 14% since 2007.

The Division is proud of its ongoing cooperation with the Connecticut Innocence Project in regard to the testing of potentially exculpatory DNA evidence. One such case resulted in the exoneration of an individual incarcerated for murder and the subsequent identification and arrest of a suspect who has been linked to and charged with two additional homicides. Such collaborative work continues under a federal grant awarded by the United States Department of Justice to the Division of Criminal Justice, Division of Public Defender Services, and the Department of Public Safety Forensic Science Laboratory.