

# Division of Criminal Justice



## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY 300 CORPORATE PLACE, ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT 06067

### *At a Glance*

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

**John J. Russotto**, *Deputy Chief State's Attorney for Personnel, Finance and Administration*

**Leonard C. Boyle**, *Deputy Chief State's Attorney for Operations*

*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 - 507 (positions authorized) - 474 (positions filled)*

*Recurring operating expenses - \$49.0 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 2011-12**

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 operates primarily on the theory that by targeting as few as 100 to 200 active violent felons, the violent crime rate can be dramatically reduced. The group also focuses on non-fatal shootings – incidents which previously did not receive 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.

Results have been significant: the number of gun-related homicides dropped by more than 40 percent during the last year, and first-degree assaults with firearms decreased by nearly 30 percent, according to police department data. The shooting task force has made more than 214 felony arrests and more than 50 misdemeanor arrests since its inception, according to the city. Members also have seized 76 firearms.

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 2012. Featured sessions included training on Bail and Probation programs and Civil Litigation/Asset Forfeiture, a presentation on Behavioral Characteristics of Sex Offenders by The U.S. Marshals Service, Current Issues in Domestic Violence Prosecution, and a session on professionalism and ethics. Division personnel participated in over 300 other training efforts, including Operating Under the Influence training in conjunction with Mothers Against Drunk Driving which featured a discussion of the Department of Correction's Home Confinement Program, agency developed trainings on Housing Matters, Juvenile Law and other Legal Updates, Child Abuse: Evidence Based Medicine, Leadership Training for Supervisors, and Identifying Defendants with Mental Illness.

The Division's highly successful internship program once again provided educational opportunities to 66 law students representing over 15 schools of law, including Quinnipiac University, William & Mary, The University of Virginia, George Washington University, and the University of Connecticut.

In collaboration with the Southeastern Connecticut Cold Case Unit, the Division was instrumental in fostering the establishment of a regional polygraph unit serving law enforcement in Southeastern Connecticut. The Division identified and secured grant funding for the polygraph unit operated by the Groton Town Police Department and the Norwich Police Department. The examiners are graduates of the New England Polygraph Institute and were trained based on a curriculum established by the Canadian Police College polygraph training course, which is administered by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The examiners also received specialized training in statement analysis and interview and interrogation techniques. Their services are available to law enforcement agencies for both forensic and pre-employment testing.

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 Administrative Staff and utilizing five separate federal grants the Division is continuing to upgrade its information technology infrastructure as well as design and implement 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. All agency personnel received information technology training in the Division's new Support Center, which was designed and constructed utilizing federal funds.

\*In FY 2011, the Division processed over 577,000 criminal case events, with more than 118,000 criminal cases added. Pending criminal cases have risen 15% 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 recently-renewed 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.