

Division of Criminal Justice



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

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 - 483 (positions authorized) - 458 (positions filled)

Recurring operating expenses - \$50.0 million (all sources)

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.

Agency 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 2012-2013

The Division secured a guilty verdict in the trial of Russell Peeler Jr. for the gun murder of drug rival Rudolph Snead Jr. in 1998. Peeler was previously convicted and condemned to death in 2007 for ordering the 1999 murder of 8-year-old Leroy Brown Jr. and his mother Karen Clarke to prevent Brown's testifying as a witness to Peeler's murder of Snead. The murders of Brown and Clarke were the genesis of Connecticut General Statute §54-82s, *The Leroy Brown, Jr. and Karen Clarke Witness Protection Program*, which provides for protective services to witnesses.

In order to strengthen its ability to investigate and prosecute child abuse, the Division established an Infant Abuse Research Group, comprised of physicians, prosecutors and inspectors involved in child abuse cases, representatives of the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and officers from municipal police departments handling child abuse investigations. The Group's specific goals are to assist in the investigation and prosecution of infant abuse cases, to oversee and provide training statewide on issues related to abuse cases and to insure that members of the Group receive advanced training and provide training on a national basis at seminars on abuse issues.

Since 2003 the Division has conducted an Annual Professional Development Program for prosecutors. 200 Division personnel attended an enhanced, intensive two-day program in 2013. Featured sessions included training on the Use of Tactical Polygraphs, programs on Federal Immigration Issues and Special Investigations of Arsons, a presentation by the State Victim Advocate, a special feature on The Art of Perception and a session on legal and legislative updates.

Division personnel participated in 317 other training efforts, including Collateral Consequences of Arrest, Incarceration and Conviction – a joint session held in cooperation with the Public Defender's Office; agency developed trainings on Eyewitness Identification Resources/Procedures, Sexting, and Digital Forensics; DNA Training – co-sponsored by the University of Connecticut; and seminars on Interstate Compacts and Extradition, Human Trafficking, Fraud Trends, and Animal Cruelty. In addition the Division trained and certified 71 inspectors in the use of oleoresin capsicum spray.

The Division's highly successful internship program once again provided educational opportunities to 59 students, 45 of whom are law students representing over a dozen schools of law, including Quinnipiac University, Columbia Law School, Michigan State University, George Washington University, and the University of Connecticut.

Using federal funds provided to the Connecticut Labor Department for integrity initiatives, the Division has established an Unemployment Compensation Fraud Unit. Two inspectors and a prosecutor work with the Department of Labor to identify cases of deliberate fraud and then obtain arrest warrants following a thorough investigation.

Since beginning its new responsibilities, the Unemployment Compensation Fraud Unit has made 10 arrests and is currently working on approximately 40 additional cases. Cases are compiled from public tips, as well from integrity software and surveillance tools.

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 seven 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. A contract to develop a Request For Proposals for Case Management has been signed with Management Technology Group.

*In FY 2011, the Division processed over 599,000 criminal case events, with more than 297,000 criminal cases added. Pending criminal cases have risen 7% 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, with the two entities having reviewed over 125 cases. 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.