

Division of Criminal Justice March 2011 Update on 2008 Criminal Justice Reforms

Improving Information Technology and Better Sharing of Information:

- The Division working in partnership with the Judicial Branch has essentially resolved the backlog in providing sentencing transcripts to the Board of Pardons and Paroles as required by then-Section 51-286f. Based upon this partnership, the process of providing the transcripts has been streamlined and expedited.
- The Division worked in partnership with the Board of Pardons and Parole to develop a system to electronically supply certain documents (police reports and warrant applications) to the Board of Pardons and Paroles in the cases where transcripts of sentencing proceedings are required (where the sentence is two or more years to serve, i.e., two or more years of the sentence is not suspended by the court). The Division accomplished this with no specific funding provided for this purpose. This system is currently in use in multiple locations and an expansion is planned.
- The Division has centralized IT operations from Judicial District locations to the central office in Rocky Hill, physically moving the server or servers to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney. This gives the small IT staff available to the agency the ability to support the multiple requirements of the 50 offices in a more efficient and consistent manner. Again, this has been done through our own initiative and with no specific resources provided. Accomplishing more with less.
- The Division is well underway in the establishment of a case management system. Utilizing a \$3 million federal grant from the Office of Policy and Management, the Division has begun to purchase equipment for a complete hardware upgrade and will soon begin work on developing a state of the art case management system. This project, expected to be completed in the next two years, will allow the Division to fully participate in the state's criminal justice information sharing initiatives.
- The Division has enthusiastically participated in the CJIS Governing Board's activities including being a part of the evaluation review team (ERT) that is reviewing all of the proposals for the Connecticut Information Sharing System (CISS) that was created by PA 08-01. That review process is moving along quickly and we are optimistic about its results. In addition, the Division's IT manager has chaired the CJIS Technology Committee, a critical group in establishing statewide standards.
- The Division has created a central expert witness repository, which makes profiles, testimony and other information about expert witnesses available electronically to all offices on the agency network. Plans call for making this available to prosecutors, investigators

and support staff statewide if and when all locations are able to communicate directly via the agency's statewide network.

Use of Home Invasion Statute:

P.A. 08-1, January Special Session, established the new offense of Home Invasion, which has since been codified as Section 53a-100aa of the General Statutes. According to the Judicial Branch, as of March 7, 2010, a total of 487 individuals have been arrested for Home Invasion in the two years since the statute took effect. The average effective sentence in those cases that have been resolved prior to January 2010 is more than 12 years, according to the Judicial Branch statistics.

Challenges:

Due to the state's severe fiscal situation, the Division overall staffing levels are down dramatically (approximately 8%) and the five prosecutor positions created in PA 08-51 to focus on the most violent offenders were never filled and have been cut.

In addition, while the first \$8 million in bonding funds have been approved for the CISS project, the Division remains concerned that there are enough IT employee positions, with the appropriate skills, assigned to the CISS project once a vendor is selected and commences work.