

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Criminal Procedure and Sentencing Committee

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Members Present: Michael Gailor (co-chair of Committee), Deborah Del Prete Sullivan (co-chair of Committee) Judge Robin Pavia (chair of Commission), Anna VanCleave, Judge Gerald Harmon

Staff: Rich Sparaco, Tommy Dowd, Matthew Hono, Jordan Oquendo, Mason Towsery

Guests: Marc Pelka, Diane Sierpina, Lisa D'Angelo, Robert Cristiano, Joe Garibaldi, Randal Chinnock

MINUTES

I. MEETING CONVENED

- Michael Gailor convened the meeting at 10:07am.
- Attendees introduced themselves.
- Gailor explained the Commission's desire to formalize the membership of its committees. Attendees who are interested in being official committee members should submit written notice to Judge Robin Pavia.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 12.3.2024 MEETING

- The meeting minutes from the 12.3.2024 meeting were approved.

III. HATE CRIME STATUTES

- a. Presentation of Report – Mike Gailor, State's Attorney, Middlesex JD, and Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Legal Counsel, Director, Office of the Chief Public Defender
 - Mike Gailor provided information about the report and its origins.
 - Gailor thanked Deborah Del Prete Sullivan, Anna VanCleave, Rich Sparaco, and Tommy Dowd for their work on the report.
 - Gailor and Sullivan highlighted the collaborative drafting process, resulting in a final report that is neutral and unbiased.

b. Discussion & Comments

- Robert Cristiano commended the report, noting that its findings were interesting and significant. He also suggested that the report should address whether to define protected classes.
- Sullivan concurred with Cristiano and suggested that the report should call for more officer training.
- Judge Robin Pavia thanked Gailor and Sullivan for their work on the report.

c. Action Item – Vote to Send Report to Full Commission

- The Committee voted unanimously to advance the report to the full Commission.
- Anna VanCleave abstained from voting because she had not read the report.

IV. PRETRIAL RELEASE AND DETENTION

a. Update on Pretrial Quantitative Study

- Matthew Hono provided an update on the pretrial quantitative study.
- The research team will present preliminary findings at the Commission meeting next week and is aiming to produce a draft report in the next few weeks.
- The project links Judicial Branch data from 2018-2023 with open-source DOC data to examine the pretrial justice system. Specifically, researchers have focused on metrics including rearrest during pendency, failure to appear rates, rates of pretrial detention at arraignment, and the percentage of detained defendants who ultimately receive a non-carceral disposition.
- Hono invited attendees to share research questions of interest.

b. Update on Pretrial Comparative Analysis

- Rich Sparaco provided an update on the pretrial comparative analysis.
- The project was previously led by New Jersey Judge Martin Cronin. Commission research fellow Christian Isidoro is continuing work on the project.
- An initial draft of the report is nearly complete. It covers best practices in pretrial release and detention, the evolution of intentional pretrial decision making, and key reforms in other jurisdictions.

c. Pretrial Working Group

- Rich Sparaco informed attendees about the new pretrial working group.
- At its last meeting, the Steering Committee voted to absorb the pretrial working group, which has been meeting independently since April, into the structure of the Commission.
- The group is intended to convene stakeholders to oversee the Commission's pretrial research, analyze research findings, and develop recommendations accordingly.
- Please reach out to Sparaco or Judge Robin Pavia if you are interested in joining the group.
- Judge Pavia expressed the importance of bringing all stakeholders to the table in this group.

V. UPDATE ON PUBLIC ACT 15-84 OUTCOMES STUDY

- Rich Sparaco provided an update on the Public Act 15-84 outcomes study.
- Public Act 15-84, and the subsequent Public Act 23-169, were Commission sponsored laws that expanded parole access for individuals who committed serious crimes as juveniles.
- The study examines the experiences and outcomes of individuals who have received parole under these laws, including a qualitative interview component and a quantitative data component.
- The research team, led by Dr. Sukhmani Singh at the UConn School of Social Work, is aiming to complete the report in November. If this timeline holds, the Commission could approve the report at its December meeting.
- Diane Sierpina asked whether there have been conversations about removing the date cutoff included in Public Act 23-169. Sparaco noted a bill last session that would have removed the cutoff and added that the report may address this issue.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Michael Gailor adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.