

CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION

Pretrial Working Group

Friday, March 27, 2026

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Minutes

Attendance: Daniel Karpowitz, Rich Sparaco, Michael Hines, Mike Cronin, Alison Near, Lydia Wileden, Mike Gailor, Bryan Sperry, Judge Pavia, Judge Gold, Mike Aiello, John DelBarba, Jessica Waggoner, Tommy Dowd, Matt Hono, Tammi Harris, Andrew Clark, Chris Moran, Joe Greelish, Gary Roberge, Christian Isidoro, Deb DelPrete Sullivan, Kevin Neary, Kyle Beaudoin, Brittany LaMarr, Colleen Gallagher

- I. MEETING CONVENED AND INTRODUCTIONS
- II. MINUTES FROM 3-13 MEETING APPROVED ON VOICE VOTE
- III. FOLLOW-UP ON FTA WARRANTS ISSUANCE, Matt Hono, IMRP
 - a. Findings from additional PRAWN data provided:
 - i. Previously, we have looked at the weight given to FTA history in pretrial decisions, the number of warrants active, and the large portion of arrestees who have a history of FTA or an active charge. We also have discussed that mental illness and substance abuse issues may impact FTAs.
 - ii. CURRENT FTA WARRANTS –51,113 active as of FEB 2026 (per PRAWN – public data shows 38,000)
 1. Difference between public and internal data is due to the public data only reporting FTAs that have a CT address. It does not include warrants with an out-of-state address or no address at all
 2. Broken down as 14% Felony, 50% Misdemeanor, 36% Other (MV offenses & VOPs)
 3. John DelBarba – Finite amount of law enforcement resources, need to prioritize – running down an FTA for larceny 6 versus solving murder. BCLs are a better options.
 4. Mike Gailor – BCLs are sent out. FTAs are not issued for first failure to appear.
 5. Mike Aiello – Can we determine if unique individuals?
 - a. Matt Hono, work is being done at the Judicial Branch to work on that, but we currently don't have a sense of the number of individuals.

- b. Joe Greelish – Misdemeanors not fingerprinted, looking for ways. Will likely be able to match across dockets with ~80% accuracy. Need CISS.
 - 6. Daniel Karpowitz – What would it take to have this in as running time info? Do FTAs help court process? Hold people accountable? Get what you want, people into court?
 - 7. Anna Van Cleave – Defense perspective- pointless for client to be at all court dates- to get an FTA for date they didn't need to attend is unnecessary. Presumption of innocence is lost in an FTA.
 - 8. Deb Sullivan – Re: Efficiency- Private bar can work out appearance without client, public defender must always have client there.
 - 9. Judge Pavia – Defendants have right to be present at all critical stages of case. Can't make findings at another date if they weren't there and informed at prior dates. Re: FTAs- they don't take effect until end of day – no one looking to delay.
- iii. Active FTAs by JDs – Stamford and New Haven have the most active warrants. Middlesex and Litchfield has the least number.
- iv. Stamford, Fairfield, New London, Danbury, and Windham are all overrepresented in the number of FTAs compared to the number of active warrants pending
- v. Of the 51,113 active FTA warrants, 29,051 have been pending for 5 years or longer
- vi. New London, Windham and New Haven with 66%-68% of active warrants 5 years or older
 - 1. Hartford among fewest with 36% of active warrants older than five years
 - 2. John DelBarba – FTAs pending 5 years or longer, why not just drop?
 - 3. Daniel Karpowitz – What is range of statute of limitations for misdemeanors? A year or does it vary?
 - a. Mike Gailor – SOL is a year for most misdemeanors, but for sex crimes could be longer.
 - b. Judge Gold – Once arrest is made, SOL issue is not timely for FTA because it is tolled. If unserved for long time and police have ability to serve it, might raise other Constitutional issues.
 - 4. Daniel Karpowitz – Man on street – why allow FTA warrant to sit unserved for three times length of SOL of underlying offense?

- a. Judge Gold – Rarely go out to serve FTA on misdemeanor – person comes across police for other reason – What could be alternative to issuance of FTA warrant?
- 5. Gary Roberge – Look to New Haven – they release the most people on nonfinancial bonds and have the lowest FTA rates, decade after decade.
- 6. Joe Greelish - Look to why FTAs are occurring – courts could notify people differently. We are looking to get someone to show up. Researching text, email, phones, and time frame prior to date. CT is a voluntary state versus some states that compel the defendant to give contact info to the court. These states find that switching from voluntary contact information to opt-out contact information saw increases in appearance rates.
- 7. Gary Roberge – FTA warrants are checked with DOC and vacated if the person is incarcerated. Theoretically, the number of active warrants for those detained in DOC should be zero.
- vii. Some judicial districts appear to vacate warrants at much higher rate than others

IV. ADJOURN 3:30 PM