



Dawn Gallo  
Patrick J. Griffin  
Sharmese Walcott

Dear Attorney [Gallo, Griffin, Walcott]:

It has come to our attention that you may be pursuing the opportunity to assume the role of Connecticut's next Chief State's Attorney. Thank you for taking a step to advance your role in ending mass incarceration!

The ACLU Connecticut Campaign for Smart Justice is grounded in the knowledge that the people closest to the problem are closest to the solution. We are an unprecedented cohort of advocates who have been directly impacted by Connecticut's justice system.<sup>i</sup> We are working to usher in a new era of justice, and we are not alone. We are part of the nationwide Campaign for Smart Justice, a multiyear effort in all 50 states.

A direct result of the ACLU Connecticut Campaign for Smart Justice's work is Public Act No. 19-59, An Act Increasing Fairness and Transparency in the Criminal Justice System, which was signed into law on July 1, 2019 by Governor Ned Lamont.<sup>ii</sup> Public Act No. 19-59 will shine a bright light on the role of State's Attorney by establishing new prosecutorial data collection and public reporting requirements for the 13 districts across the state. After the successful passage of Public Act No. 19-59, the public is now watching this selection to gain a better understanding of how each Chief State's Attorney candidate views their role in (a) the implementation of Public Act No. 19-59, and (b) within Connecticut's justice system as a whole.

We invite you to complete our *ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut Survey for Connecticut Chief State's Attorney Applicants*. While the Chief State's Attorney role is not an elected position, this public position is critical in protecting the safety and well-being of Connecticut residents. As such, the public has a right to know your views on various topics referenced within the pledge.

All of the identified Chief State's Attorney candidates have received a request to complete this *ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut Survey for Connecticut Chief State's Attorney Applicants*. Please provide your full response by May 10, 2022.

Our pledge consists of 12 Yes/No questions, each with the opportunity to provide a 250-word comment. Where neither "Yes" nor "No" is selected, the response will be recorded as "Did Not Respond." We also a request that you submit a brief 1 paragraph biography with your responses to this pledge. Each candidate's response will be posted on our website, as well as circulated to our more than 41,000 ACLU supporters in Connecticut and the broader public.

***The American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut is a nonpartisan, non-profit membership organization that defends, promotes and preserves individual rights and liberties under the U.S. and Connecticut constitutions in state and federal court, the General Assembly and the state's 169 towns and cities.***



Please direct any questions to Claudine Constant, Public Policy and Advocacy Director, at 860-461-8477 or [cfox@acluct.org](mailto:cfox@acluct.org).

Anderson Curtis  
Senior Policy Organizer  
ACLU Connecticut Campaign for Smart Justice

Gus Marks-Hamilton  
Campaign Manager  
ACLU Connecticut Campaign for Smart Justice

## ACLU Smart Justice Connecticut Survey for Connecticut Chief State's Attorney Applicants

1. Will you commit to transparency and professional accountability for state's attorneys by supporting legislation requiring all 13 state's attorneys appear before the Criminal Justice Commission for biennial check-ins, using data from [PA No. 19-59](#) that focuses on creating fair, consistent, and proportional outcomes and measuring overall well-being of communities impacted by prosecution? Please give a clear "Yes" or "No" to the question and any explanation.
2. In 2022, the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) initiated the "Blueprint to Move Justice Forward", a grant tasked with investigating why disparate outcomes occur in Connecticut's 13 judicial districts. Will you commit to fairness and transparency by supporting legislation requiring uniform policies and procedures to be promulgated by the Division of Criminal Justice Advisory Board based on the results from the "Blueprint to Move Justice Forward" grant for all 13 state's attorney offices? Please give a clear "Yes" or "No" to the question and any explanation.

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3. Will you commit to legislation reducing the length of state’s attorney terms from eight years to four years? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.
  
4. Will you commit to ending mass incarceration by supporting legislation overhauling the sentence modification process to (a) consider only the rehabilitation and character of a person while incarcerated, and victim input, (b) eliminate the possibility of a sentence increase, and (c) eliminate the requirement of initial agreement by state’s attorneys for a sentence modification application to be processed? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to all four subparts and any explanation.
  
5. Will you commit to ending mass incarceration by supporting legislation to modernize Connecticut’s criminal code by (a) eliminating duplicative criminal penalties, (b) eliminating mandatory minimums and sentence enhancements, (c) reducing the maximum penalty of incarceration on all offenses by 25%, and (d) capping all prison sentences to 20 years? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to all four subparts and any explanation.
  
6. Will you commit to saving taxpayer dollars by supporting the permanent closure of Manson Youth Institution? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.
  
7. Will you commit to transforming the role of the Division of Criminal Justice in ending mass incarceration by dedicating 50% of the division’s budget, by 2028, to community wellness programs that divert people out of the criminal legal system, such as rehabilitation programs or nonjudicial sanctions? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.
  
8. Will you commit to holding police accountable by supporting legislation requiring state’s attorneys to (a) update the Criminal Justice Commission

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quarterly on all open deadly force investigations, and (b) present their findings to the Criminal Justice Commission with an opportunity for public comment? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to both question subparts and any explanation.

9. Will you commit to holding police accountable by (a) creating a statewide “Brady List” of police officers excluded from testifying in criminal cases because of a proven history of lying or other professional or criminal misconduct, and (b) making the “Brady List” available to the public on request? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.
  
10. Will you commit to holding police accountable by (a) assigning prosecutors in every judicial district to ensure that every charge is supported by probable cause before filing with the court, as required by Practice Book § 36-12, (b) ensuring cases are dismissed when insufficient evidence exists to support prosecution, and (c) refusing to prosecute cases involving police officers who have a proven record of false testimony, evidence tampering, or have otherwise proven unreliable in meeting ethical or professional standards? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.
  
11. Will you commit to transparency and accountability by supporting legislation setting a uniform standard for criminal discovery which mandates (a) disclosure of all evidence to a defendant before they are required to accept or reject a plea offer, (b) disclosure of all evidence to the defense no later than 30 days before trial, (c) filing with the court an itemized list of information disclosed to the defense, and (d) mandating dismissal upon the defense’s request if the prosecution fails to provide required evidence within prescribed time period? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

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12. Will you commit to transparency and accountability by supporting legislation codifying a Division of Criminal Justice code of ethics that meets or exceeds the National District Attorneys Association’s [National Prosecution Standards](#)? Please give a clear “Yes” or “No” to the question and any explanation.

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<sup>i</sup> To learn more about the ACLU’s Smart Justice Campaign visit: <https://www.acluct.org/en/issues/smart-justice>

<sup>ii</sup> A link to Public Act No. 19-59 can be found here: <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2019/ACT/pa/pdf/2019PA-00059-R00SB-00880-PA.pdf>



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