



# STATE'S ATTORNEYS APPELLATE PROSECUTOR

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## FY 24 ANNUAL REPORT

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# State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor



## FY24 Annual Report

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## Mission & Overview

The Legislature created the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor in 1977. The Agency was given the mission to work closely with State's Attorneys in 101 counties to prepare, file, and argue cases in the appellate courts to keep convicted criminals behind bars. The Agency's responsibility has since been expanded to include serving as Special Prosecutor, providing assistance to State's Attorneys in labor cases under the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act, in drug cases, and in tax objection cases. The Agency also provides continuing legal education services which includes specialized sessions in trial advocacy and in cases involving children who are crime victims and witnesses.

The Agency's specific powers and duties are detailed in the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Act (725 ILCS 210 et. seq).

### Objective

The primary objective of the Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor is to deliver quality professional services to all participating counties in full compliance with its legislative mandate. This includes:

- I. To represent the People of the State of Illinois on appeal in all cases which emanate from a county containing less than 3,000,000 inhabitants, when requested to do so and at the direction of the State's Attorney;
- II. To prepare, file, and argue such appellate briefs in the Illinois Appellate Court with the advice and consent of the State's Attorney and, when requested and authorized to do so by the Attorney General, in the Supreme Court;
- III. To assist State's Attorneys in the discharge of their duties under the Illinois Controlled Substances Act, the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act, the Narcotics Profit Forfeiture Act, the Cannabis Control

Act, the Drug Asset Forfeiture Procedure Act, and the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act;

- IV. To provide trial assistance to State's Attorneys and to serve as Special Prosecutor when duly appointed by a court having jurisdiction with a court order stating the statutory provisions;
- V. To assist State's Attorneys in the trial and appeal of tax objection cases;
- VI. To conduct training programs for State's Attorneys and law enforcement personnel including programs to reduce trauma for child witnesses in criminal proceedings; and
- VII. To provide a legal intern program.
- VIII. To provide resources to State's Attorneys Offices to address Pretrial Fairness Act Appeals under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 604(h).

### County Participation

The State's Attorneys retain exclusive control of appeals originating in their respective counties as well as the authority to control all documents in each individual case. The Agency files no documents in the reviewing courts until they are approved by the State's Attorneys otherwise responsible for prosecuting the appeal.

The participation of the State's Attorney in the program is completely voluntary. Counties that agree to participate are required to collectively finance one-third of the total appropriation approved by the General Assembly and the Governor with the exception of personal services expenses of the collective bargaining unit. The remaining two-thirds of the Agency's budget is appropriated from General Revenue Funds. Each county's portion is determined annually by the Agency and is based on population.

## **Board of Governors**

The Agency is governed by a Board of Governors consisting of ten State's Attorneys. The Cook County State's Attorney is a permanent member by statute; eight State's Attorneys are elected bi-annually; and the tenth member is appointed bi-annually by the other nine members.

## **Director's Office**

The Director is responsible for the overall supervision and coordination of the Agency and for providing all administrative services. This includes administrative and managerial functions, legal policy and other extraordinary legal concerns, budgetary and legislative matters, and Agency publications.

## **District Offices**

Four District Offices have been established. They are located in Elgin (Second District), Ottawa (Third District), Springfield (Fourth District), and Mt. Vernon (Fifth District). Each Office is managed by a Deputy Director who supervises a staff of attorneys and clerical personnel.

## **Duties and History**

In addition to the primary duties of preparing, filing, and arguing appellate briefs, the Agency provides numerous other services to State's Attorneys and law enforcement personnel. The Agency's initial appellate responsibility focused on criminal cases.

However, effective August 9, 1981, the Agency's authorization was expanded to represent the People of the State of Illinois on appeal in juvenile cases, paternity cases, and cases arising under the Mental Health Development and Disabilities Code when requested to do so by the respective State's Attorney. Also effective

on the same date, the Agency was given authority upon request to assist State's Attorneys in the trial and appeal of tax objection cases.

In addition, on August 18, 1982, the Agency was authorized to assist State's Attorneys on cases and appeals arising under the Narcotics Profit Forfeiture Act. Also, effective August 3, 1984, the Agency's authorization was again expanded to provide for assisting State's Attorneys in the discharge of their duties under the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act. Effective July 1, 1986, the Agency was legislatively mandated to conduct training programs for prosecutors and other law enforcement personnel to reduce trauma for child witnesses in criminal proceedings.

Effective January 1, 1988, the authority of the Agency was again expanded to permit the Agency to represent the People of the State of Illinois on appeal in all types of cases that emanate from a county containing less than 3,000,000 inhabitants when requested to do so, and at the direction of the State's Attorney otherwise responsible for prosecuting the appeal. On this same date, the Agency was also authorized to assist State's Attorneys in the full discharge of their duties under the Illinois Controlled Substances Act and the Narcotics Profit Forfeiture Act. To carry out this responsibility, the Agency created the Local Drug Prosecution Support Unit on May 1, 1988.

On September 28, 1989, the Agency entered into a collective bargaining agreement with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union. By this agreement, the Agency recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive collective bargaining representative for Staff Attorneys and Legal Secretaries. On January 1, 1990, the authority of the Agency was expanded through the creation of general revenue appropriations for collective bargaining personal services and through the approval to permit the rollover of county funds.

Effective September 10, 1990, Public Act 86-1382 created the Drug Asset Forfeiture Procedure Act and amended the Cannabis Control Act and the Controlled Substances Act. These amendments authorized the Agency to receive a 12.5% share in the monies and sale proceeds of property forfeited and seized under the provisions of these Acts in counties under 3,000,000 inhabitants. They also authorized the Agency to use these funds in the investigation, prosecution, and appeal of cases arising under laws governing cannabis and controlled substances.

On July 16, 2002, the Agency was authorized to assist State's Attorneys in the discharge of their duties under the Cannabis Control Act and the Drug Asset Forfeiture Procedure Act. On this same date, the Agency was also authorized to provide trial assistance to State's Attorneys and to serve as Special Prosecutor when duly appointed by a court having jurisdiction with a court order stating the statutory provisions.

Effective May 28, 2010, the Agency was officially designated a judicial agency of state government.

On this same date, the term of the Agency's elected Board of Governors was extended from one to two years.

On September 11, 2012, the Agency was further authorized to provide services to State's Attorneys under the Methamphetamine Control and Community Protection Act.

On July 27, 2015, Public Act 99-143 was passed and mandated that the Agency include persons with disabilities in its training programs focusing on reduction of trauma in testifying in criminal proceedings.

On July 30, 2015, Public Act 99-208 was passed. This Public Act allows the State's Attorney of Cook County to appoint a designee for Board Meetings; allows the Agency to contract for or employ part-time investigators and mandates

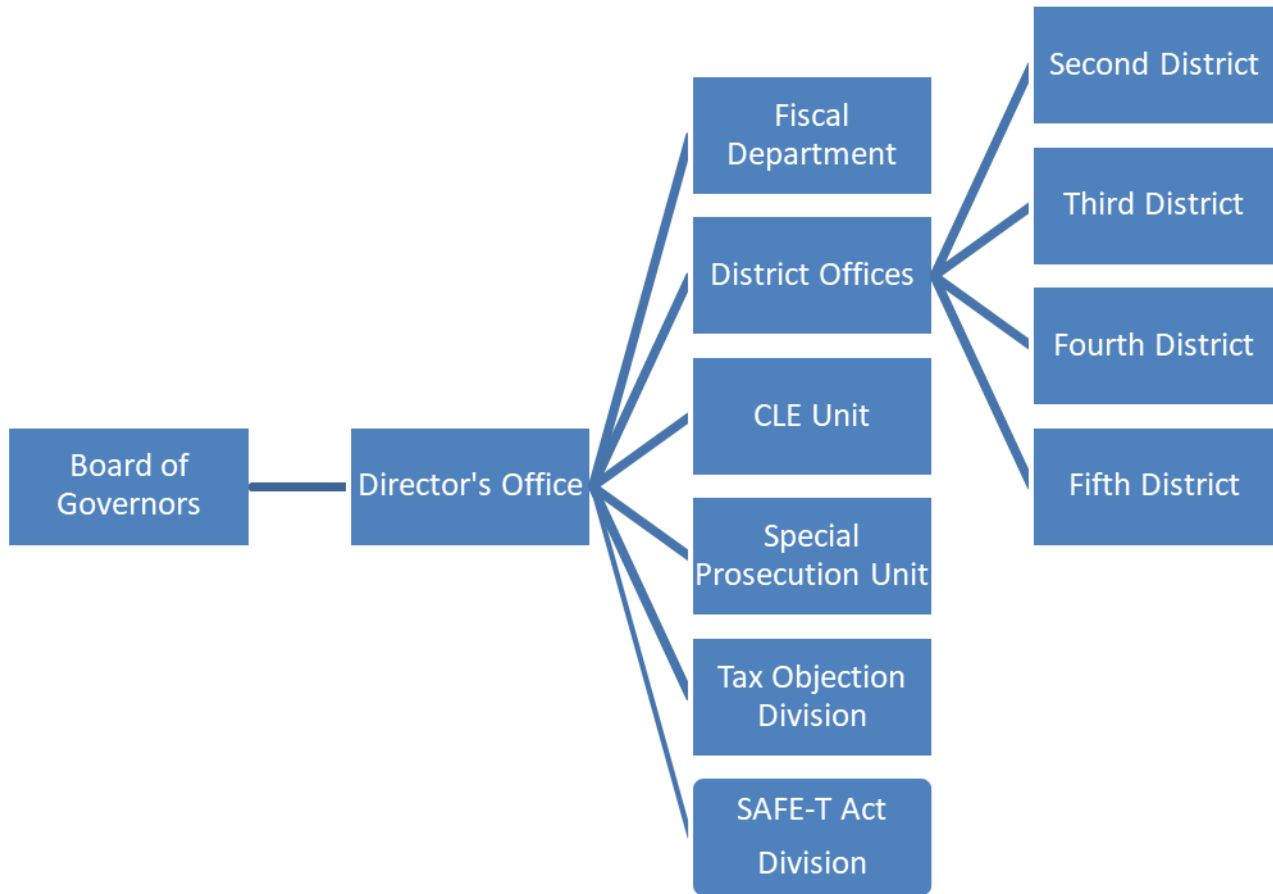
that these investigators contact and cooperate with local law enforcement agencies unless the contact and cooperation would compromise an investigation in which the local law enforcement agencies have a personal involvement; authorizes the Director to issue a badge to each investigator, contracted or employed.

On June 17, 2021, Public Act 102-16 was passed so that the Agency may establish a Best Practices Committee to evaluate specific issues related to the investigation and prosecution of serious criminal offenses, and to make recommendations to improve and enhance public safety.

On February 22, 2021, Public Act 101-0652 was signed into law by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker and became known as the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity – Today Act, or SAFE-T Act. Following the Supreme Court of Illinois' decision in *Rowe v. Raoul* in 2023, the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor's Office established its SAFE-T Act Division. This division provides resources to State's Attorneys' offices throughout the State to address appeals under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 604(h).

# Agency Structure

The below chart summarizes the overall structure of the Agency. The State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor is governed by a Board of Governors consisting of ten State's Attorneys. The Director's Office promulgates and implements the rules and regulations governing the administrative and legal functions of the Agency.



## Board of Governors

The Office of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor has a membership of ten State's Attorneys who govern the Agency's functions. Eight State's Attorneys are elected to serve on the Board. The Cook County State's Attorney serves by statute, and one State's Attorney is appointed Member-At-Large by the other nine members. The Board members elect officers to preside during the two-year term.

The Board Officers during FY24 were:

**Ben Goetten, Jersey County, Chairman** (Elected since July 2020; elected Vice-Chairman June 2018)

**Denton Aud, White County, Vice-Chairman** (Served from November 2022 to January 2024)

**Justin E. Hood, Hamilton County** (Elected since April 2024; Previously served from June 2018 to July 2020)

**Gray Herndon Noll, Morgan County, Secretary** (Elected since December 2019)

The State's Attorneys who served as members of the FY24 Board of Governors were:

First District:

**Kimberly M. Foxx, Cook County** (Serves by statute, effective December 2016)

Second District:

**Patrick D. Kenneally, McHenry County** (Has served on Board since January 2023)

**Eric Weis, Kendall County** (Has served on Board since July 2020)

Third District:

**Robert Berlin, DuPage County** (Has served on Board since July 2020)

**Joseph R. Navarro, LaSalle County** (Has served on Board since November 2022)

Fourth District:

**Ben Goetten, Jersey County** (Has served on Board since May 2013)

**J. Hanley, Winnebago County** (Appointed as Board Member At-Large January 2023)

**Gray Herndon Noll, Morgan County** (Has served on Board since December 2018)

Fifth District:

**Denton Aud, White County** (Served on Board from July 2020 to January 2024)

**Justin E. Hood, Hamilton County** (Elected to Board April 2024; Previously served from December 2009 to July 2020)

**James Gomric, St. Clair County** (Has served on Board since November 2022; served as Board Member-at-Large from March 2022 to November 2022)

## Biographies

### Denton Aud

Denton W. Aud was raised in Carmi, White County, Illinois where he graduated from Carmi-White County High School in 2001. Upon graduating from high school, he attended Murray State University where he graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science degree, summa cum laude, in Political Science. Mr. Aud graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 2008 with his Juris Doctor degree.

Upon graduating from law school, Mr. Aud hung his own shingle by opening a general solo practice law office in Carmi. In 2009, he became the Conflicts Public Defender in White County and was later hired as the Assistant State's Attorney of White County in 2010. Mr. Aud was initially elected as the State's Attorney of White County in 2012 before being re-elected in 2016 and 2020.

Mr. Aud has served on the Board of Governors since July 2020.

Mr. Aud is also a member of the Carmi Kiwanis Club, volunteers as a coach of local youth sports teams, and is an elder at First Christian Church of Carmi. He and his wife, Alex, live in Carmi with their four sons (Drennan, Abraham, Judah, and Shepherd) and one daughter (Hosanna).

### Robert Berlin

On December 14, 2010, Robert B. Berlin was appointed DuPage County State's Attorney to complete the unexpired term of Joseph Birkett. In 2012, 2016, 2020, and 2024, Mr. Berlin was elected to full four-year terms as DuPage County State's Attorney.

A career prosecutor, Mr. Berlin began his career in 1987 as an Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County. During his tenure in Cook County, Mr. Berlin's assignments included the criminal appeals, misdemeanor, felony review, homicide-sexual assault preliminary hearing, child exploitation, and felony trial divisions. In 2001, Mr. Berlin left the Cook County State's Attorney's Office opting to continue his career as First Assistant State's Attorney for the Kane County State's Attorney's Office. As First Assistant State's Attorney, Mr. Berlin managed and supervised the entire Office staff of more than 140 lawyers and support staff. While in Kane County, Mr. Berlin developed and implemented new policies including the Community Prosecutions and Felony Review Unit. Mr. Berlin also served as Chief of the Priority Prosecutions Unit. In 2004, Mr. Berlin began working for the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office as Deputy Chief of the Office's Juvenile Division. During the next several years, Mr. Berlin was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Felony Trial Division and in April 2010, Chief of the Criminal Bureau where he supervised all Assistant State's Attorneys charged with the criminal prosecutions function of the Office.

In his 37-year career as a prosecutor, Mr. Berlin has tried nearly ninety felony jury trials, 55 of which involved first degree murder. Mr. Berlin has also tried hundreds of felony bench trials, including more than 50 homicide cases.

Mr. Berlin has earned numerous awards and accolades throughout his career. In 2013, the Illinois State Crime Commission awarded Mr. Berlin with the State's Attorney of the Year Award. In 2012, Mr. Berlin was recognized by the National Gang Crime Research Center with the organization's Frederick Milton Thrasher Award for his accomplishments in gang prosecutions. In 2011, Mr. Berlin was awarded the Education Center's "Making a Difference Award" for his educational efforts and projects that help children become productive citizens. Mr. Berlin was also awarded the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation

Board of Directors' Trial Award in 2003 and the Kane County Outstanding Prosecutor Award in 2004.

Mr. Berlin is a member of the DuPage County Bar Association as well as the Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigations Team. He is a frequent lecturer on a variety of criminal justice issues and has participated in numerous heroin education forums throughout DuPage County.

Mr. Berlin has served on the Board of Governors since July 2020.

Mr. Berlin was raised in the northern suburbs of Chicago and is a graduate of Dickinson College and Washington University School of Law. Mr. Berlin resides with his wife in Downers Grove and has two adult daughters who live in Chicago.

## [Kimberly M. Foxx](#)

Kimberly M. Foxx is the first African American woman to lead the Cook County State's Attorney's Office – the second largest prosecutor's office in the country. She was elected to the top prosecutor post, after claiming victory in a historic election, during a critical time for the criminal justice system in Chicago. Her message of reform, restoring trust, and working with the community to increase public safety, resonated with the diverse citizens across the county who want to see a more balanced criminal justice system.

Ms. Foxx took office on December 1, 2016, with a vision for transforming the Cook County State's Attorney's Office into a fairer, more forward-thinking agency focused on rebuilding the public trust, promoting transparency, and being proactive in making all communities safe. She is committed to making the office more responsive to the people of Cook County.

Her passion for public service is deeply personal. She spent her early childhood growing up in the Cabrini Green public housing complex, raised by her teenage mother and grandmother. Her life experiences gave her insight on the impact of crime, violence and poverty on our communities. That consciousness inspired Ms. Foxx to pursue a career in public service as she sought to improve life in communities like the one in which she was raised.

Prior to being elected State's Attorney, Ms. Foxx served as Chief of Staff for Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle. As President Preckwinkle's senior advisor and lead strategist, she oversaw a \$4 billion annual budget and worked on issues ranging from county finances to public safety and juvenile detention. She was the lead architect of the county's criminal justice reform agenda to address racial disparities in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. Her efforts contributed to a significant drop in the Cook County jail population while promoting public safety.

A veteran prosecutor, Ms. Foxx served as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for 12 years, rising through the ranks to supervise dozens of ASAs in felony juvenile courtrooms. She has also served as a guardian ad litem in the Cook County Public Guardian's Office, where she worked as a senior attorney advocating for children navigating the child welfare system, many of whom had been abused, neglected or had special needs.

An accomplished leader, prosecutor and advocate, Ms. Foxx is active with a number of community organizations. She currently serves as a board member for the Adler University, and Free Spirit Media, where she also served as Board President. Previously, Ms. Foxx has served as board chair of Planned Parenthood of Illinois and president of the National Black Prosecutors Association- Chicago Chapter. She

is a member of Leadership Greater Chicago and the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

Born and raised on Chicago's Near North Side, Ms. Foxx is a graduate of Southern Illinois University, where she earned a B.A. in Political Science and a J.D. from the SIU School of Law.

Ms. Foxx serves on the Board of Governors by statute.

## Ben Goetten

Mr. Goetten received his undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Loyola University Chicago. He was legally trained at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago. He was first appointed State's Attorney in Jersey County in 2007, successfully winning re-election since. He was elected to the Board of Governors in 2013 and previously served as Vice-Chairman. He was elected Chairman of the Board in July 2020 and continues to serve as Chairman. Mr. Goetten's passion for his profession comes second only to his immense respect and unwavering support of his fellow prosecutors.

## James Gomric

James Gomric was born and raised in Belleville, Illinois, the eldest of five children. Mr. Gomric attended Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville. In 1992, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Saint Louis University. Thereafter, he attended Saint Louis University School of Law, graduating in 1995. He met his wife, Julie, while in law school.

Mr. Gomric began his legal career as an assistant state's attorney for St. Clair County in the fall of 1995 and continued in former State's Attorney, Robert Haida's, office for several

years. During that time, he served in a variety of roles including warrant review officer.

After his service as an Assistant State's Attorney, Mr. Gomric transitioned to the St. Clair County Public Defender's Office and, following his time there, began a career in private practice spanning nearly two decades. During that time, he worked with a number of the most talented attorneys in the region.

Over the last twenty-three years, Mr. Gomric has successfully tried many cases of all types in both the federal court and many counties in Illinois.

Mr. Gomric was appointed as the At-Large Board Member in March 2022. Mr. Gomric was elected to the Board of Governors in November 2022 and January 2023.

He and his wife are the proud parents of three children, John Tyler, Rose Marie and Jimmy.

## J. Hanley

J. Hanley is the 19th State's Attorney to serve the people of Winnebago County, Illinois. He was elected into office on December 1, 2020.

Born and raised in Rockford, Illinois, J. Hanley understands what makes this community "tick" and he takes pride in advocating on behalf of the citizens of Winnebago County.

J. possesses a strong sense of community and desire to serve others. Much of his personal and professional life has been dedicated to the people of Winnebago County. A prosecutor at heart, J. started his career as an Assistant State's Attorney here in Winnebago County and then went on to become an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Arizona. While there, J.'s investigation team was awarded the Homeland Security Investigations

Executive Associate Director's 2010 Annual Award for Outstanding Investigative Accomplishments in Human Smuggling.

Each day, J. works tirelessly to build trust, keep his community safe, and seek justice on behalf of all citizens.

Mr. Hanley was appointed as the At-Large Board Member in January 2023.

## Justin E. Hood

Justin E. Hood was raised in McLeansboro, Illinois. Justin received his bachelor degree with honors in 2000 from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He graduated from Southern Illinois University Law School in 2004.

Mr. Hood worked as an Assistant State's attorney for Jackson County, St. Clair County, and Franklin County.

Mr. Hood won his primary election in February of 2008 and was sworn in as Hamilton County State's Attorney in August 2008. He was reelected State's Attorney in 2012 and 2016.

Apart from his duties as Hamilton County State's Attorney, Mr. Hood serves as First Vice President of the Illinois State's Attorneys Association and assists several Southern Illinois Counties as a special prosecutor on conflict cases.

Mr. Hood is active on the State's Attorney Legislative Committee. He is also a member of the National District Attorney Association.

Mr. Hood is a volunteer coach and board member in the Hamilton County Athletic Association. He is a member of the Hamilton County Rotary, Masonic Polk Lodge, and local Farm Bureau chapter.

Mr. Hood is also active in the local school system giving presentations on a variety of topics that range from traffic issues, drug and alcohol abuse, to sexual and domestic violence issues.

Mr. Hood previously served on the Board from December 2009 to July 2020, including service as Chairman of the Board from June 2018 to July 2020. He was re-elected as a 5th District Board Member in April 2024.

Mr. Hood is married to Marcy and lives in McLeansboro with their three children.

## Patrick D. Kenneally

Patrick joined the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office in 2007 as an assistant state's attorney. During his tenure as an assistant state's attorney, Patrick worked in traffic court, misdemeanor court, felony court, as a special prosecutor, in the Civil Division, and as the First Assistant. He handled thousands of criminal prosecutions and represented the County in civil litigation and on government-related legal matters. Patrick was elected McHenry County State's Attorney in 2016.

Patrick believes it is his duty to stand in solidarity with victims who often must endure for a lifetime the consequences of the senseless criminal acts of others. He is committed to resolutely prosecuting criminal offenders, but doing so without ever losing sight of his ultimate ethical responsibility to seek justice before all else and ensure a defendant's rights are protected.

Patrick has been awarded the Turning Point Peace and Justice Award for his work on behalf of victims of domestic battery and currently serves on the Executive Board of the McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition. He is also a

member of the McHenry County and Illinois Bar Associations.

Patrick is the proud husband to Colleen. Patrick, Colleen, and their four sons, live in Crystal Lake. Patrick and his family are members of St. Thomas Church in Crystal Lake, where Patrick is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Patrick earned his law degree from Washington University School of Law in 2005 and also has a master's degree in environmental law from the University of Vermont. Prior to law school, Patrick earned his bachelor's degree in biology and liberal arts from College of the Holy Cross. At Holy Cross, Patrick was named to the All-Time Patriot League Academic Honor Roll.

Mr. Kenneally was elected to the Board of Governors in January 2023.

## Joseph R. Navarro

State's Attorney Navarro has been practicing law for 42 years. Joe was elected LaSalle County State's Attorney in 1988 and 1992 and was appointed State's Attorney in August, 2022. He was reelected to another four year term in November, 2024, and was unopposed.

State's Attorney Navarro has extensive Jury Trial experience, in traffic cases through murder cases both as the State's Attorney and in private practice. During his prior tenure as States Attorney, he was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to oversee the certification of attorneys in the Third Appellate Court District, as first or second chair attorneys qualified to try Capitol cases. Joe was first chair certified after having tried eight murder cases, in an eight-year period, including two capitol death cases. State's Attorney Navarro has direct supervision over fifteen Assistant State's Attorneys and twelve paralegals and other support staff.

Joe also served our country proudly in the U.S. Marine Corps and is a Vietnam Veteran 72',73', he was awarded a Bronze Star with "V" for Valor for combat actions on August 1,1972 at Bien Hoa Airbase Republic of S. Vietnam.

Mr. Navarro was elected to the Board of Governors in November 2022.

## Gray Herndon Noll

Gray Herndon Noll is the State's Attorney of Morgan County. He has served in that capacity since January 1st, 2016. Prior to moving to Morgan County, he served the people of Sangamon County as an Assistant State's Attorney.

Altogether, Mr. Noll has over 19 years of prosecutorial experience. He has served in many different roles as a prosecutor. He has previously held positions including Chief of the Traffic and Misdemeanor Division, Chief of the Domestic Violence Division, and Chief of the Violent Crimes and Drug Division. He has been Lead Counsel on numerous jury trials ranging from petty traffic tickets to First Degree Murder charges.

Prior to becoming an Assistant State's Attorney in Sangamon County, Mr. Noll attended Southern Illinois University School of Law. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Illinois College. Between Illinois College and SIU, Mr. Noll was employed as a high school history teacher in the City of Chicago.

Mr. Noll has served on the Board since December 2018 and was elected as Secretary in December 2019 and continues to serve as Secretary of the Board.

Mr. Noll currently resides in Jacksonville with his wife Lauren and their two sons.

## Eric Weis

Eric Weis was sworn into his sixth term as State's Attorney for Kendall County in December of 2024. Prior to his election as State's Attorney in 2006, Mr. Weis served as First Assistant State's Attorney of Kendall County under two former state's attorneys where he served as the chief felony prosecutor for most major violent and drug related offenses. Eric began his legal career back in 1997 when he was sworn in as an Assistant State's Attorney for Kendall County after working for two years as a law school intern with the office while attending Northern Illinois University College of Law.

Mr. Weis is a member of the Illinois, Kendall and Kane County Bar Associations, the Kendall County Chiefs of Police Association, Executive Board Member of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, and the 16th & 23rd Judicial Circuits Family Violence Prevention Steering Committee. Eric recently served as a representative on the Capital Punishment Reform Study Committee. He is also a member of the several executive boards involving Kendall County law enforcement agencies and currently serves as chairman of the Kendall County Juvenile Justice Council.

Mr. Weis earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree from North Central College in 1994 and went on to law school where he earned his Juris Doctorate and graduated Cum Laude from Northern Illinois University College of Law in 1997.

Mr. Weis is a graduate of Oswego High School and currently resides in Yorkville, Illinois. Mr. Weis has two sons, Justin and Ryan.

Mr. Weis has served on the Board of Governors since July 2020.

## Program Participation

All counties having less than three million inhabitants are eligible to participate in the Agency’s Program. Participation is voluntary. 100 Counties participated in the Agency’s Program for FY24. **Cook County and DuPage County were the only counties not participating.**

Effective January 1, 2022, Public Act 102-0011 changed the judicial district boundaries for the Second through Fifth Judicial Districts for the first time since they were established in 1964. Cook County remains as the First Judicial District.

**The Second through Fifth Judicial Districts effective January 1, 2022, are:**

### Second District (5)

DeKalb  
Kane  
Kendall  
Lake  
McHenry

### Third District (7)

Bureau  
DuPage  
Grundy  
Iroquois  
Kankakee  
LaSalle  
Will

### Fourth District (41)

Adams	McDonough
Boone	McLean
Brown	Menard
Calhoun	Mercer
Carroll	Morgan
Cass	Ogle
Ford	Peoria
Fulton	Pike
Greene	Putnam
Hancock	Rock Island
Henderson	Sangamon
Henry	Schuyler
Jersey	Scott
Jo Daviess	Stark
Knox	Stephenson
Lee	Tazewell
Livingston	Warren
Logan	Whiteside
Macoupin	Winnebago
Marshall	Woodford
Mason	

### Fifth District (48)

Alexander	Lawrence
Bond	Macon
Champaign	Madison
Christian	Marion
Clark	Massac
Clay	Monroe
Clinton	Montgomery
Coles	Moultrie
Crawford	Perry
Cumberland	Piatt
DeWitt	Pope
Douglas	Pulaski
Edgar	Randolph
Edwards	Richland
Effingham	Saline
Fayette	Shelby
Franklin	St. Clair
Gallatin	Union
Hamilton	Vermilion
Hardin	Wabash
Jackson	Washington
Jasper	Wayne
Jefferson	White
Johnson	Williamson

# Director's Office

725 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62704

217-782-1628  
Fax: 217-782-6305

The Director's Office is responsible for all Agency administrative and managerial functions, legal policy and other extraordinary legal concerns, budgetary and legislative matters, and Agency publications. The following personnel served on the staff of the Director's Office during FY24:

Director: Patrick J. Delfino	Associate Director/CLE Administrator: Matthew P. Jones
Chief Deputy Director: David J. Robinson	Administrative Assistant: Megan Beckwith
Human Resources Coordinator: Chad Hilligoss	Victim / Witness Coordinator: Lisa Levi Sheri Vega
Chief Fiscal Officer: Gloria Mundy	Chief Technology Officer: Matthew Richter
Assistant Fiscal Officers: Sarah Klein Jessica Mitchell	Receptionist: Jan Beiermann
Special Prosecution Unit: Jonathan Barnard (Contractual) Thomas Brown (Contractual) Phillip Butler Charles Colburn Derek Dion William Elward (Contractual) Michael Havera Matthew Goetten (Active Military) Nichole Kroncke Kate Kurtz	Lorinda Lamken Kristen Miller Jennifer Mudge Edwin Parkinson (Contractual) David Rands Brooke Shupe Brian J. Towne Crystal Uhe Charles Zalar (Contractual)

## [Patrick J. Delfino](#)

Mr. Delfino is a native of Chicago and a graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School. He is an experienced trial and appellate attorney. Before coming to the Appellate Prosecutor's Office as Assistant Director, he served as a drug attorney and court specialist with the Illinois Law Enforcement Commission and as the Director of Planning and Special Projects of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Mr. Delfino was appointed Director of the Appellate Prosecutor's Office in December 2008.

Mr. Delfino has taught criminal justice courses at colleges and law schools and is the Executive Director of the Illinois State's Attorneys Association. He serves on the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority by statute and also serves on the Illinois Sex Offender Management Board, the Children's Justice Task Force of the Department of Children and Family Services, and on the Illinois Terrorism Task Force. He is a Past-President of the Illinois Academy of Criminology, and a member of the Chicago Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, and the National District Attorneys Association. He resides in Springfield with his daughter.

# Second District Office

2032 Larkin Avenue  
Elgin, IL 60123

847-697-0020  
Fax: 847-697-9824

The Second Judicial District is comprised of 5 counties, all of which participated in the Appellate Prosecutor's program during FY24.

The following personnel served on the Second District staff during FY24:

**Deputy Director:**

Edward R. Psenicka

**Staff Attorneys:**

John Barrett

Max Boose

Diane Campbell

Clare Connolly

David Friedland

Lynn Harrington

Victoria Jozef

Miles Keleher

Katrina Kuhn

Stephanie Hoit Lee

Richard London

Gabrielle Moore

Adam Rodriguez

Jenna Seaver

Jaylaan Slaughter

Ivan O. Taylor, Jr.

Pamela Wells

**Legal Secretaries:**

Luisa Gonzalez

Sharon Lavick (Administrative)

Sandra Lorigan

## FY24 2<sup>nd</sup> District Appellate Statistics

Main Briefs	Reply Briefs	Sup. Briefs	Petitions for Rehearing	Summary Disp.	Conf. of Error	Motions to Dismiss / Other	Oral Argument	PLA	Advice Calls / Other Requests
250	5	11	8	0	0	8	61	17	225

# Third District Office

628 Columbus Street-Suite 300  
Ottawa, IL 61350

815-434-7010  
Fax: 815-434-7339

The Third Judicial District is comprised of 7 counties, 6 of which participated in the Appellate Prosecutor's program during FY24.

The following personnel served on the Third District staff during FY24:

**Deputy Director:**

Thomas D. Arado

**Staff Attorneys:**

Nicholas Atwood  
Jamie Bellah  
Laura Bialon  
Gary Gnidovec  
Kara Jones

Korin Navarro  
Justin Nicolosi  
Stephanie Raymond  
Jessica Theodoratos  
Adam Trejo

**Legal Secretaries:**

Lisa Gerding (Administrative)  
Heather Sobkowich (PT)

## FY24 3<sup>rd</sup> District Appellate Statistics

Main Briefs	Reply Briefs	Sup. Briefs	Petitions for Rehearing	Summary Disp.	Conf. of Error	Motions to Dismiss / Other	Oral Argument	PLA	Advice Calls / Other Requests
191	8	2	3	0	3	0	41	11	192

# Fourth District Office

725 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62704

217-782-8076  
Fax: 217-782-6305

The Fourth Judicial District is comprised of 41 counties, all of which participated in the Appellate Prosecutor's program during FY24.

The following personnel served on the Fourth District staff during FY24:

**Deputy Director:**

David J. Robinson

**Staff Attorneys:**

Allison Brooks

Rosario Escalera

Connor Goetten

Matthew Goldman

Tim Londrigan

James Majors

David Mannchen

Courtney O'Connor

Brittany Whitfield

James Ryan Williams

**Legal Secretaries:**

Shirley Bagby (Administrative)

Jessica Langdon

**Law Clerks:**

Guy Fricano

## FY24 4<sup>th</sup> District Appellate Statistics

Main Briefs	Reply Briefs	Sup. Briefs	Petitions for Rehearing	Summary Disp.	Conf. of Error	Motions to Dismiss / Other	Oral Argument	PLA	Advice Calls / Other Requests
260	3	5	1	0	5	4	35	2	49

# Fifth District Office

730 East Illinois Highway 15-Suite 2  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618-244-2107  
Fax: 618-244-2713

The Fifth Judicial District is comprised of 48 counties, all of which participated in the Appellate Prosecutor's program during FY24.

The following personnel served on the Fifth District Staff during FY24:

Deputy Director:

Patrick D. Daly

Staff Attorneys:

Jennifer Camden  
Hiram Fenjac  
Luis Hizo Quiel  
Michael Lennix  
Trent Marshall  
Max Miller  
Chelsea Neilson

Valerie O'Brien  
Becky Ray  
Sharon Shanahan

Legal Secretaries:

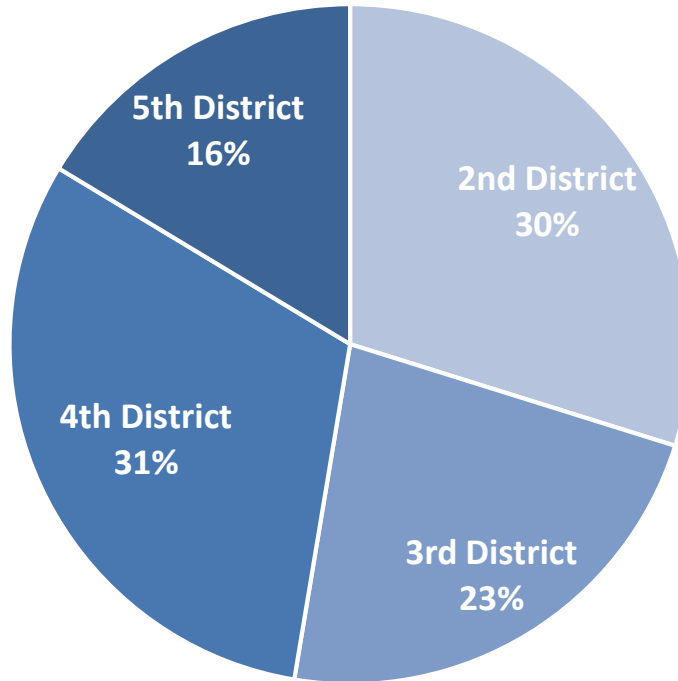
Joanie Cooper (Administrative)  
Janet Schumm  
Janna Wright

## FY24 5<sup>th</sup> District Appellate Statistics

Main Briefs	Reply Briefs	Sup. Briefs	Petitions for Rehearing	Summary Disp.	Conf. of Error	Motions to Dismiss / Other	Oral Argument	PLA	Advice Calls / Other Requests
137	6	2	4	2	0	7	34	4	188

# Appellate Program Statistical Analysis

## FY24 Main Briefs Filed



	2 <sup>nd</sup> District	3 <sup>rd</sup> District	4 <sup>th</sup> District	5 <sup>th</sup> District	Total
<b>Main Briefs</b>	250	191	260	137	838
<b>Reply Briefs</b>	5	8	3	6	22
<b>Supplemental Briefs</b>	11	2	5	2	20
<b>Petitions for Rehearing</b>	8	3	1	4	16
<b>Summary Dispositions</b>	0	0	0	2	2
<b>Confessions of Error</b>	0	3	5	0	8
<b>Motions to Dismiss / Other</b>	8	0	4	7	19
<b>Oral Arguments</b>	61	41	35	34	171
<b>Petitions for Leave to Appeal</b>	17	11	2	4	34
<b>Advice Calls / Other Requests</b>	225	192	49	188	654

## Special Prosecution Unit

The Special Prosecution Unit of the Agency consists of experienced trial attorneys who assist in prosecuting criminal cases when requested to do so by and at the direction of the State's Attorney and when duly appointed by a court having jurisdiction. The following attorneys served on the Special Prosecution Unit Staff during FY24:

Jonathan Barnard (Contractual)  
 Thomas Brown (Contractual)  
 Phillip Butler  
 Charles Colburn  
 Derek Dion  
 William Elward (Contractual)  
 Matthew Goetten (Active Military)  
 Michael Havera  
 Nichole Kroncke  
 Kate Kurtz  
 Lorinda Lamken  
 Kristen Miller  
 Jennifer Mudge  
 Edwin Parkinson (Contractual)  
 David Rands  
 Brooke Shupe  
 Brian J. Towne  
 Crystal Uhe  
 Charles R. Zalar (Contractual)

If a conflict of interest arises in a State's Attorney's office, and the State's Attorney wants an independent, detached review and prosecution by an outside person, or if special assistance is needed due to the complexity of a case, the Agency makes the services of the Special Prosecution Unit available.

The Unit has been particularly active in downstate Illinois where personnel and financial resources are more limited than in the more populous counties. Trial assistance has been provided in numerous murder cases and cases dealing with official misconduct of public officials as well as numerous other criminal and civil matters when the State's Attorney was

unable to prosecute. Frequently, when the Unit is asked to assist, the cases involve complex issues, and trial experience is an absolute necessity. The Special Prosecution Unit has become a valuable resource to the State's Attorneys of Illinois. The combination of a Unit of experienced trial prosecutors with legal and technical expertise and the Agency's Appellate Staff Attorneys provide the State's Attorneys with needed expert assistance. During FY24, the Unit provided assistance to State's Attorneys on 1,418 cases in the following 96 counties:

Adams	Hardin	Monroe
Alexander	Henderson	Montgomery
Boone	Henry	Morgan
Brown	Iroquois	Moultrie
Bureau	Jackson	Peoria
Calhoun	Jasper	Perry
Carroll	Jefferson	Piatt
Cass	Jersey	Pike
Champaign	Jo Daviess	Pope
Christian	Johnson	Pulaski
Clark	Kane	Randolph
Clay	Kankakee	Richland
Clinton	Kendall	Rock Island
Coles	Knox	Saline
Cook	Lake	Sangamon
Crawford	LaSalle	Schuyler
Cumberland	Lawrence	Scott
Dekalb	Lee	Shelby
Dewitt	Livingston	St. Clair
Douglas	Logan	Stephenson
Edgar	Macon	Union
Edwards	Macoupin	Vermilion
Effingham	Madison	Wabash
Fayette	Marion	Warren
Ford	Marshall	Washington
Franklin	Mason	Wayne
Fulton	Massac	White
Gallatin	McDonough	Whiteside
Greene	McHenry	Will
Grundy	McLean	Williamson
Hamilton	Menard	Winnebago
Hancock	Mercer	Woodford

## SAFE-T Act Division

Following the Supreme Court of Illinois' decision in Rowe v. Raoul in 2023, the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor established its SAFE-T Act Division. This new division provides resources to State's Attorneys' offices throughout the State to address appeals under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 604(h). Interlocutory appeals under Rule 604(h) require a responsive pleading to be filed within 21 days. ILSAAP's SAFE-T Act Division ensures that the Supreme Court's time-line mandate is met in a way that is professional and justice directed. During FY24, the Agency provided assistance to State's Attorneys on 2,109 SAFE-T Act appeals in the following 85 counties:

COUNTY	CASES RECEIVED	COUNTY	CASES RECEIVED	COUNTY	CASES RECEIVED
Adams	23	Jasper	1	Peoria	45
Bond	6	Jefferson	35	Piatt	2
Boone	9	Jersey	5	Pike	5
Bureau	5	Kane	183	Pope	3
Calhoun	1	Kankakee	19	Pulaski	1
Carroll	1	Kendall	11	Rock Island	124
Cass	2	Knox	16	St. Clair	52
Champaign	207	Lake	56	Saline	7
Christian	61	LaSalle	40	Sangamon	37
Clay	2	Lawrence	4	Schuyler	1
Clinton	5	Lee	3	Scott	1
Coles	42	Livingston	62	Shelby	4
Cumberland	1	Logan	12	Stark	1
DeKalb	48	McDonough	8	Stephenson	9
DeWitt	3	McHenry	54	Tazewell	17
Douglas	9	McLean	140	Union	4
Edgar	13	Macon	30	Vermilion	91
Effingham	4	Macoupin	14	Wabash	5
Fayette	25	Madison	11	Warren	2
Ford	5	Marion	5	Washington	1
Franklin	2	Mason	5	Wayne	12
Fulton	40	Massac	8	White	2
Gallatin	4	Menard	2	Whiteside	11
Grundy	2	Mercer	5	Will	187
Hamilton	2	Monroe	4	Williamson	9
Hancock	4	Montgomery	10	Winnebago	159
Hardin	1	Morgan	13	Woodford	1
Henry	11	Moultrie	7		
Jackson	7	Ogle	8		
			<b>TOTAL CASES RECEIVED:</b>		<b>2,109</b>
			<b>TOTAL CASES DECIDED:</b>		<b>1,984</b>
			<b>TOTAL CASES OPEN:</b>		<b>125</b>

## Tax Objection Division

The Tax Objection Division of the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor is invaluable for State's Attorneys confronted with specialized and complex cases before the courts, the Property Tax Appeal Board, or the Department of Revenue. Particularly in the smaller counties, State's Attorneys lack the specialized experience to handle these cases even if they could find the time from their ongoing criminal and civil responsibilities.

During FY24, tax objection services were provided to 24 counties on 210 matters.

### FY24 Tax Objection Division Statistics

COUNTY	MATTERS		COUNTY	MATTERS
1. Adams	9		13. LaSalle	75
2. Bond	1		14. Livingston	27
3. Bureau	8		15. Macon	2
4. Calhoun	5		16. Marion	1
5. Carroll	2		17. Massac	4
6. Champaign	1		18. McDonough	1
7. Clark	3		19. Moultrie	11
8. Edgar	1		20. Ogle	1
9. Ford	3		21. Putnam	1
10. Fulton	1		22. Rock Island	19
11. Jersey	4		23. Scott	1
12. Knox	22		24. Whiteside	7
			<b>TOTAL MATTERS:</b>	<b>210</b>

## Drug Asset Forfeiture

Effective September 10, 1990, Public Act 86-1382 created the Drug Asset Forfeiture Procedure Act and amended the Cannabis Control Act and the Controlled Substances Act. These amendments authorized the Agency to receive a 12.5% share in the monies and sale proceeds of property forfeited and seized under the provisions of these Acts in counties under 3,000,000 inhabitants. They also authorized the Agency to use these funds in the investigation, prosecution, and appeal of cases arising under laws governing cannabis and controlled substances. The Agency brought in the following during FY24:

County	Total	County	Total	County	Total
ADAMS	\$3,035.53	HENDERSON	\$0.00	OGLE	\$1,524.24
ALEXANDER	\$0.00	HENRY	\$58,579.54	PEORIA	\$1,840.98
BOND	\$1,318.42	IROQUOIS	\$20,694.25	PERRY	\$0.00
BOONE	\$15,988.51	JACKSON	\$19,253.19	PIATT	\$971.47
BROWN	\$195.50	JASPER	\$1,759.37	PIKE	\$678.50
BUREAU	\$322,651.34	JEFFERSON	\$2,391.11	POPE	\$0.00
CALHOUN	\$0.00	JERSEY	\$0.00	PULASKI	\$0.00
CARROLL	\$0.00	JODAVIESS	\$75.00	PUTNAM	\$0.00
CASS	\$959.12	JOHNSON	\$0.00	RANDOLPH	\$0.00
CHAMPAIGN	\$42,718.87	KANE	\$147,694.11	RICHLAND	\$0.00
CHRISTIAN	\$217.00	KANKAKEE	\$21,649.08	ROCK ISLAND	\$16,353.90
CLARK	\$21.25	KENDALL	\$16,097.94	SALINE	\$0.00
CLAY	\$0.00	KNOX	\$4,214.86	SANGAMON	\$55,040.15
CLINTON	\$592.68	LAKE	\$35,673.34	SCHUYLER	\$0.00
COLES	\$5,207.75	LASALLE	\$15,206.62	SCOTT	\$153.37
COOK	\$1,742.12	LAWRENCE	\$0.00	SHELBY	\$0.00
CRAWFORD	\$430.44	LEE	\$611.12	STARK	\$0.00
CUMBERLAND	\$0.00	LIVINGSTON	\$7,009.30	ST. CLAIR	\$51,106.37
DEKALB	\$5,136.85	LOGAN	\$4,808.66	STEPHENSON	\$5,392.94
DEWITT	\$45.00	MACON	\$20,103.82	TAZEWELL	\$8,966.79
DOUGLAS	\$5,526.25	MACOUPIN	\$0.00	UNION	\$0.00
DUPAGE	\$52,040.70	MADISON	\$95,246.79	VERMILLION	\$2,087.98
EDGAR	\$0.00	MARION	\$1,184.50	WABASH	\$1,400.09
EDWARDS	\$0.00	MARSHALL	\$0.00	WARREN	\$773.21
EFFINGHAM	\$0.00	MASON	\$160.55	WASHINGTON	\$22,198.00
FAYETTE	\$49,007.50	MASSAC	\$4,636.52	WAYNE	\$0.00
FORD	\$68.75	MCDONOUGH	\$1,254.55	WHITE	\$0.00
FRANKLIN	\$3,897.50	MCHENRY	\$179,238.56	WHITESIDE	\$275.75
FULTON	\$205.74	MCLEAN	\$38,176.22	WILL	\$469,012.50
GALLATIN	\$0.00	MENARD	\$0.00	WILLIAMSON	\$7,758.39
GREENE	\$0.00	MERCER	\$0.00	WINNEBAGO	\$106,056.25
GRUNDY	\$12,292.88	MONROE	\$2,054.37	WOODFORD	\$4,752.25
HAMILTON	\$0.00	MONTGOMERY	\$0.00		
HANCOCK	\$2,169.62	MORGAN	\$122.18	RETURNS	\$0.00
HARDIN	\$0.00	MOULTRIE	\$121.75	<b>FY24 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,979,829.75</b>

# Continuing Legal Education Unit

In FY24, the Continuing Legal Education Unit of the Agency continued the program by providing our full schedule of core CLE programs.

The CLE Unit under Associate Director/CLE Director Matthew P. Jones continues to provide the only prosecutor oriented, state-wide continuing legal education in Illinois and we look forward, thanks to budget stability, to meeting the ever-increasing demands of prosecutors and the public to serve justice in an ethical and well-trained manner.

## FY24 CLE Training Seminars

DATE	PROGRAM	CLE TRAINING HOURS	PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY HOURS	ATTENDEES
May 20-24, 2024	2024 Spring Advanced Trial Advocacy	30.75	18.25	17
April 17-19, 2024	2024 Spring Mastering Trial Technology	15.25	0	25
April 12, 2024	2024 Spring SAFE-T Act Training	4	0	44
March 11-15, 2024	2024 Spring Basic Trial Advocacy	30.75	19.25	33
December 4-8, 2023	2023 Fall Advanced Trial Advocacy	31.00	18.25	14
November 14-16, 2023	2023 Fall Mastering Trial Technology	15.25	0	24
September 11-15, 2023	2023 Fall Basic Trial Advocacy	31.25	19.25	33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7 PROGRAMS</b>	<b>158.25</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>190</b>

# State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor



Administrative Office  
725 South Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217-782-1628  
FAX: 217-782-6305 (TTY: 217-558-1605)  
[www.ilsaap.org](http://www.ilsaap.org)

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Agency is committed to providing equal employment opportunity for all persons. In keeping with that goal, it is the express policy of the Agency that all employment decisions regarding the recruitment, hiring, training, promotion, and layoff of and the awarding of benefits to an employee will be made without regard to factors including, but not limited to a person's actual or perceived race, sex, sexual orientation, creed, religion, color, marital status, age, ancestry, national origin, mental or physical handicap, sexual orientation, pregnancy, military status, genetic information, order of protection status, or any other status protected by law.

The Agency is committed to maintaining a work environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. In keeping with this commitment, the Agency will not tolerate harassment of Agency employees, contractors, vendors, consultants by anyone, including any supervisor, co-worker, elected official, vendor, client, intern, applicant, or apprentice of the Agency, or any third party that does business with the Agency. The Agency prohibits any such conduct in the workplace, and this policy prohibits harassment or other workplace discrimination based on an individual's protected status, even if it does not rise to the level of a legal violation. The harassment prohibited by this policy is conduct, whether verbal, physical or visual, that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual based on that person's actual or perceived race, sex, sexual orientation, creed, religion, color, marital status, age, ancestry, national origin, mental or physical handicap, sexual orientation, pregnancy, military status, genetic information, order of protection status, or any other status protected by law. The Agency will not tolerate harassing conduct that has the purpose or effect of interfering unreasonably with an individual's work performance, affecting an individual's tangible job benefits or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment.