



HJ - 116

**State of Connecticut  
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**TESTIMONY OF CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER L. MORANO**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF  
MAUREEN M. KEEGAN OF CHESHIRE TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT**

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
MARCH 21, 2006**

Senator McDonald, Senator Kissel, Representative Lawlor, Representative Farr and Members of the Judiciary Committee: It is with great pride that I appear before you today to enthusiastically support the nomination of Attorney Maureen M. Keegan to be a Judge of the Superior Court.

Attorney Keegan exemplifies the professionalism of the Division of Criminal Justice and the success of the career path that we have established for prosecutors in this State. She is an outstanding example of the success of our system of appointing prosecutors through a competitive process on the basis of merit.

Attorney Keegan is a career employee of the Division of Criminal Justice. She started as a Summer Intern in the State's Attorney's Office in Waterbury in 1986 and continued to serve as an intern during various periods in 1986, 1987 and early 1988. She was appointed as a Deputy Assistant State's Attorney in Geographical Area No. 4, Waterbury, in 1989 and moved to the Part A court in Waterbury in December 1991.

She was subsequently promoted to Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney in Part A. During the absence of the State's Attorney from January 15, 1998, to June 30, 1998, Attorney Keegan was designated to exercise supervisory authority of the State's Attorney. In May of 2004, Attorney Keegan moved to the Office of the Chief State's Attorney as an Executive Assistant State's Attorney where she is one of my closest advisors and assistants.

There is no task that I would hesitate to assign to Attorney Keegan, nor none that I can imagine that she would not accept. Her enthusiasm - for the law, for her work and for the pursuit of justice - is unequalled. As Executive Assistant State's Attorney, she oversaw the development of our Case Presentation Unit, which allows prosecutors to utilize the latest in technology to present their cases in court. She also assists our Public Integrity Bureau, our Cold Case Unit and assists with the coordination and oversight of the Division of Criminal Justice training program. She is my designee on the DNA Data Bank Oversight Panel. As many of you on the Committee are aware, she also serves as part of

our legislative team presenting testimony and working with members of the General Assembly on issues of concern to the Division of Criminal Justice and the legislature.

One facet of her duties as Executive Assistant State's Attorney that does not garner as much attention is her work with the general public. Attorney Keegan is one of those assigned to take inquiries and provide information to members of the public. As you might imagine, people do not usually call the Office of the Chief State's Attorney to pass the time of day. They call to express problems, concerns, and, yes, to complain - as they have a right to do with any of their government agencies. Attorney Keegan has handled even the most difficult of inquiries with the utmost understanding and an ever-present willingness to get the person an answer.

This nomination is a bittersweet one for the Division of Criminal Justice for we stand to lose an outstanding member of our leadership team. At the same time, however, the system of justice that we all serve stands to gain a truly remarkable individual. I have stated on many occasions that the mission of the Division of Criminal Justice is not to tally as many convictions as we can, but to pursue and achieve justice for our State and its people. To do so requires Judges of sound intellect, a keen understanding of the law, unquestioned integrity and an understanding of people. Attorney Maureen Keegan will be such a Judge, and I enthusiastically support her nomination.

Thank you.