

Questions For Criminal Justice Commission Nominee

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Criminal Justice Commission

The Criminal Justice Commission consists of the chief state's attorney and six other members, including two Superior Court judges ([CGS § 51-275a](#)).

The commission appoints the chief state's attorney, who is the head of the Division of Criminal Justice, every five years. It also appoints two deputy chief state's attorneys (one for operations and one for personnel, finance, and administration) and, for each judicial district, a state's attorney, assistant state's attorneys, and deputy assistant state's attorneys ([CGS § 51-278](#)).

The commission may remove the chief state's attorney from office for misconduct, material neglect of duty, or incompetence. It may reprimand, demote, suspend, or remove from office state's attorneys, assistant state's attorneys, and deputy assistant state's attorneys for just cause ([CGS § 51-278b](#)).

Questions

Hiring and Disciplining Prosecutors

1. When hiring a person to become a prosecutor, what attributes would you look for and what evidence would you need to be convinced that a candidate has those attributes?
2. When deciding whether to reappoint a prosecutor, what factors would you look at and what kind of proof or evidence would you need to assure you that the candidate should be reappointed?

3. What role does the chief state's attorney play in determining whether he should be reappointed? How should the commission judge the chief state's attorney's performance?
4. Does the commission oversee prosecutors? Under what circumstances should a prosecutor be removed or disciplined?
5. How would you handle a complaint alleging that a prosecutor has a substance abuse problem?
6. Under what circumstances, if any, should a prosecutor's private, non-criminal conduct or lifestyle be the basis for removal from office?

Criminal Justice Issues

1. What do you think is the most pressing criminal justice issue in Connecticut today? How is the Division of Criminal Justice dealing with it? What else needs to be done?
2. Some people think a disproportionate number of minorities are prosecuted for crimes. Do you think sentences for minorities are comparable to sentences for non-minorities? Is this a concern? What can be done?
3. How much discretion do you think prosecutors should have with respect to plea bargains?
4. When do you think alternatives to incarceration are appropriate? Should they be used more often? Should there be more sentencing options?
5. What possible safeguards should Connecticut implement to prevent wrongful incarceration?

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