

## ACLU OF CONNECTICUT SMART JUSTICE CHIEF STATE'S ATTORNEY SURVEY RESPONSE GUIDE

**Inside:** Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo is up for a reappointment hearing on May 13, 2021. Ahead of that hearing, see how he responded to Smart Justice's questions about if and how he would use the position, if reappointed, to end mass incarceration.

By setting the tone for prosecutors statewide and regularly influencing criminal justice legislation, the Chief State's Attorney plays a powerful role in our state. As such, the public has a right to know the Chief State's Attorney's views on various topics referenced within this survey.

Our survey consisted of 10 Yes/No questions, each with the opportunity to provide a 250-word comment. Where neither “Yes” nor “No” is selected, the response is recorded as “Unclear.”

You can visit [www.acluct.org](http://www.acluct.org) to see the full survey and response.

The ACLU of Connecticut does not endorse or oppose applicants for the Chief State's Attorney position. We believe in educating people about the issues at stake in the selection of a new Chief State's Attorney and in holding the next Chief State's Attorney accountable for their role in ending mass incarceration.



# Chief State's Attorney Richard Colangelo is up for a reappointment hearing on May 13, 2021.

## Below are his responses to the ACLU of Connecticut Smart Justice survey.

	Richard Colangelo	ACLU-CT Recommendation
1. Will you commit to transparency and professional accountability for State's Attorneys by supporting legislation that requires additional training for prosecutors as part of their continuing education on topics including racial bias, collateral consequences, alternative dispositions, victim and trauma-informed practices, and reentry?	Unclear	YES
2. Will you commit to transparency and professional accountability for State's Attorneys by supporting legislation requiring meaningful and measurable biennial performance evaluations of all 13 State's Attorneys performed by the Criminal Justice Commission using data from PA No. 19-59, which measures the overall well-being of communities impacted by prosecution?	Unclear	YES
3. Will you commit to fairness and transparency by supporting legislation requiring the Chief State's Attorney and the 13 State's Attorneys to come together to create uniform policies in areas where prosecutors have discretion to be promulgated by the Division of Criminal Justice Advisory Board for all 13 State's Attorney offices?	NO	YES
4. Will you commit to increasing transparency by supporting legislation reducing the length of State's Attorney terms from eight years to four years?	NO	YES
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) capping all prison sentences to 20 years?	Unclear	YES on a, b, c
6. Will you commit to racial justice and police accountability by ensuring that the new office of the Inspector General has plenary discretion to make all prosecutorial decisions independent of you?	Unclear	YES
7. Will you commit to racial justice and holding police accountable by supporting legislation in which killings by police are justified only if it is clear that police have exhausted the reasonable alternatives to use of deadly physical force?	Unclear	YES

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8. Will you commit to holding police accountable by (a) ensuring that all 13 judicial districts develop and implement uniform Brady policies? (b) 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? c) ensure all 13 prosecutorial districts' uniform Brady policies rely on credible sources other than police to identify and track police whose conduct precludes them from testifying in criminal cases?	<b>Unclear</b>	<b>YES on a, b, c</b>
9. Will you commit to racial justice and police accountability by making the “Brady List” available to the public on request?	<b>Unclear</b>	<b>YES</b>
10. In an effort to reduce recidivism and promote racial justice, will you support legislative efforts to eliminate collateral consequences of a criminal record?	<b>Unclear</b>	<b>YES</b>

We thank Richard Colangelo for completing the survey, as providing on-the-record answers to members of the public is a basic requirement of public leadership.

