

AGENCY NAME:	SC Commission On Prosecution Coordination		
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AGENCY'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

I. FY 2024-25 AGENCY OVERVIEW

Created in 1990, the South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination (SCCPC) is marking thirty-five (35) years of excellence, serving South Carolina's sixteen (16) elected Circuit Solicitors and their staff of over 1,160 prosecutors, investigators, victim advocates, diversion and treatment court coordinators, paralegals, technology staff, and other administrative professional through training, legal assistance, programmatic support, data analysis, and collaboration with criminal justice stakeholders. The SCCPC continued to fulfill this mission during FY 2024-25 and further strengthened its efforts by expanding prosecutor recruitment and retention initiatives, growing the development and use of technology advancements both internally and in solicitors' offices, enhancing information communications with solicitors' offices, strengthening collaboration with criminal justice partners and stakeholders, and expanding training offerings for law enforcement, judges, and other state and local government attorneys.

II. FY 2024-25 NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PLANS

ADMINISTRATION

- For the third year, the SCCPC recognized state prosecutors and non-attorney prosecution staff in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor and the SCCPC for milestone years of service in a Circuit Solicitor's Office, SC Attorney General's Office, or the SCCPC. At the 2025 SC Solicitors' Annual Conference, the SCCPC recognized 26 individuals for reaching 10 years of service, 15 individuals for reaching 15 years of service, 17 individuals for reaching 20 years of service, 16 individuals for reaching 25 years of service, 5 individuals for reaching 30 years of service, and 1 individual for reaching 45 years of service.
- The Executive Director has continued career growth among staff by encouraging and enabling staff to pursue relevant educational and training opportunities.
- The Executive Director served as Vice President of the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC). The NAPC brings together prosecutor coordinators from across the country that serve as Executive Directors of their state's organization that serves prosecutor offices in the same manner as the SCCPC. The Executive Director also served as an ex officio member of the SC Bar's Criminal Law Section Council.
- The SCCPC Executive Director or staff member continued to serve on the following statewide committees:
 - Adult Protection Coordinating Council
 - Impaired Driving Prevention Council
 - Victim Services Coordinating Council
- One (1) half-day in-person meeting and two (2) two-day in-person meetings with the sixteen (16) elected Circuit Solicitors were organized by the SCCPC. For the third year, one of these two two-day meetings included a half day meeting with our North Carolina counterparts, including the Executive Director of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys (NCCDA), North Carolina's state agency that supports' its District Attorneys in the same capacity that the SCCPC

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Administration (continued)

supports South Carolina’s Circuit Solicitors, and a group of elected North Carolina District Attorneys comprised primarily of the NCCDA’s Executive Committee members. This annual meeting fosters collaboration and communication among the elected prosecutors in North Carolina and South Carolina as border states that face similar issues.

- In addition to in-person meetings, the SCCPC continued to hold virtual Circuit Solicitor check-in meetings throughout FY 25. These meetings enable the elected Circuit Solicitors to collaborate with each other on pressing matters and topics of interest, and to receive updates from the SCCPC. Ten (10) such meetings were coordinated and held during FY 25.
- The eleven (11) member Commission met once during FY 25.
- Pursuant to state law, the SCCPC collected data from the Offices of Circuit Solicitor and prepared annual reports on:
 - Expenditures and Revenue (state, local, federal, and non-governmental funding sources)
 - Traffic Education Programs (TEP) Financial Reports
 - Solicitor Diversion and Treatment Court Programs
 - Pending Warrants and Attorney Recruitment
 - Domestic Violence (DV) Prosecutions
 - Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Prosecutions.
 - Victim Services
 - Pending Warrants and Attorney Recruitment
 - Expungement Programs and Fees
 - Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committees
- To benefit the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, the SCCPC collected data and prepared the following annual reports:
 - Circuit Solicitor Attorney and Non-attorney Staffing
 - Circuit Solicitor County Funding Comparison
 - Detailed State and County Funding Reports for each Circuit (FY 20-FY 25)
- As required by statute, the SCCPC prepared and submitted 25+ additional annual agency reports.

Plans and Goals for FY 26

- The SCCPC will continue to innovate and increase agency effectiveness. Some of these efforts include:
 - Update and implement a written document retention policy for the SCCPC.
 - Revise internal policies and procedures for the procurement process in the SCCPC, including procurement cards.
 - Procure a legislative tracking platform.
- The Executive Director has been elected to serve as President of the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators for FY 26.

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Administration (continued)

- The partnership between the SCCPC and NCCDA will continue in FY 26, to include the SCCPC hosting a half day meeting with South Carolina’s elected Circuit Solicitors, NCCDA leadership, and a group of North Carolina’s elected District Attorneys.

EDUCATION SERVICES

- A primary focus of the SCCPC continues to be offering a diverse array of high-quality training and educational programming for the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, as well as other prosecution and law enforcement entities. The SCCPC conducts in-person and webinar trainings (via Zoom™).
- The SCCPC exceeded its training goals for FY 25 by offering 163.57 hours of continuing education opportunities through 32 training programs. While the Annual Conference, Prosecution Bootcamp, and 13 other programs were conducted only as in-person trainings, two trainings were offered simultaneously as in-person and live Zoom™ webinars, 14 other programs were conducted only as live Zoom™ webinars, and one training was offered as a video replay of a live webinar program.
- The SCCPC conducted its two keystone trainings during FY 25, the training offered during the four-day South Carolina Solicitors’ Annual Conference and annual Prosecution Bootcamp program. The Annual Conference brings together approximately 700 persons, the Circuit Solicitors and their staff (including prosecutors, investigators, victim advocates, paralegals, as well as diversion and other staff), other state and local prosecutors, attorneys for law enforcement agencies, and others from across the State for training to meet certification and/or job requirements. The Bootcamp program brings together senior prosecutors and new lawyers in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor for the purpose of providing trial advocacy training. In 2024, the SCCPC conducted the Prosecution Bootcamp program as a two-part training. Part I of the training, which was held in June 2024, was a five-day program with a greater focus on trial advocacy. Part II of the 2024 Prosecution Bootcamp, which was held in October 2024, was a one-day training consisting of substantive law presentations focusing on basic criminal law and procedure. Before the end of FY 25, the SCCPC restructured the program to be a six-day program, and the 2025 Prosecution Bootcamp was held in June 2025.
- The SCCPC staff worked with the officers of the SC Solicitors’ Victim Advocate Forum and SC Association of Pretrial Intervention Programs in planning their separate tracks at the South Carolina Solicitors’ Annual Conference.
- The other 29 trainings conducted by the SCCPC during FY 25 were of varying lengths, from one hour to 6.83 hours. They covered a variety of topics relevant to the duties of the staff of the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, including:
 - criminal offenses, including DUI and sextortion
 - case law updates
 - trial advocacy
 - evidentiary issues, including hearsay, expert testimony, and 404(b) evidence
 - appellate and post-conviction considerations for trial prosecutors
 - the prosecution’s disclosure obligation
 - bonds and bond hearings

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Education Services (continued)

- constitutional law, including search and seizure and confessions
 - offense-specific topics, including those related to driving under the influence, crimes against animals, and juvenile justice
 - victims' rights, advocacy, and restitution
 - ethics and professionalism
 - technology
 - criminal procedure
 - forensic science
 - juvenile waiver hearings
 - legislation
 - diversion programs, policies, and procedures
 - effective communication
 - collaboration with others in the criminal justice system
 - responding to FOIA requests and subpoenas
 - mental health issues
- The SCCPC staff provided legal updates to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, Attorney General, and municipal prosecutors registered with the SCCPC immediately upon the release of opinions and orders by the Supreme Court of the United States and South Carolina's appellate courts announcing a significant change to the substantive law or court procedure and rules.
 - The SCCPC staff provided notifications or summaries to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, Attorney General, and municipal prosecutors registered with the SCCPC upon the enactment of relevant legislation by the South Carolina General Assembly.
 - The SCCPC conducted both in-person and virtual meetings with and for staff of the 16 Circuit Solicitors to meet with each other and the SCCPC on an as-needed basis. Virtual meetings have enabled greater communication and coordination with the Offices of Circuit Solicitor and have promoted a more inclusive audience as many office staff who were previously unable to attend in-person meetings due to budgetary restrictions are now regularly attending virtual meetings held by the SCCPC.
 - In the regular training email alert distributed to the staff of the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, Attorney General, and some municipal prosecutors and law enforcement officers (those registered for such notices) included relevant training opportunities offered by other local, state, and national organizations and providers (local, state, and national), in addition to that offered by the SCCPC.
 - Three SCCPC staff members served as speakers and/or resources for local, state, and national organizations and/or government agencies related to criminal justice and prosecution training, including the South Carolina Bar, South Carolina Court Administration (three different trainings for summary court judges), Clerks of Court and Registers of Deeds, and the National Association of Prosecution Coordinators.
 - The SCCPC engages in outreach to the membership of the Law Enforcement Networks by attending network meetings.

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Education Services (continued)

- The SCCPC participates as a member of the South Carolina Impaired Driving Prevention Council (IDPC) to coordinate with other stakeholders in supporting impaired driving prevention initiatives within the State of South Carolina.

Plans and Goals for FY 26:

- The SCCPC will continue to coordinate and conduct trainings in the future tailored to the needs of prosecutors, paralegals, investigators, victim advocates, and diversion program, administrative, and other staff and will provide resource materials for every training that is conducted for future reference and use.
- The SCCPC will finalize planning of and conduct a one-two day training for administrative staff of the Offices of Circuit Solicitor.
- In FY 26, the SCCPC will continue to develop and conduct the South Carolina Solicitors' Annual Conference, the Bootcamp program for new prosecutors, and other trainings relevant to the duties and responsibilities of the staff of the Offices of Circuit Solicitor.
- The SCCPC will continue to obtain accreditation, as relevant, for its trainings from the Supreme Court of South Carolina's Commission on CLE and Specialization, South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, and/or Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification & Statistical Analysis. Evaluations will continue to be utilized to determine the effectiveness of each training.
- The SCCPC will also continue to offer the opportunity for select groups of prosecution staff to address specific changes in the law, such as expungement personnel, family court prosecutors, DUI prosecutors, and Sex Offender Registry points of contact; this engagement will continue into FY 26 and beyond.

PROSECUTOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- The SCCPC assisted the Offices of Circuit Solicitor with prosecutor recruitment and retention efforts. The SCCPC created and distributed job fair flyers and a brochure about working in a Circuit Solicitor's Office. In April 2025, the SCCPC hosted two prosecution job fairs. The first was held in Charleston at the Charleston School of Law; representatives from ten of the Offices of Circuit Solicitor and the Attorney General's Office participated. The second was held in Columbia; representatives from seven of the solicitors' offices and the South Carolina Attorney General's Office participated. In February 2025, staff from the SCCPC distributed the recruitment brochure to persons leaving the site of the South Carolina Bar Exam. The SCCPC further supported the recruitment efforts of the Offices of the Circuit Solicitors by advertising open positions on the SCCPC's website. The SCCPC also aided the recruitment of prosecutors by bringing other job fairs, including at local law schools and larger job fairs (such as the National District Attorneys Association's annual job fair) to the attention of the Circuit Solicitors.

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Prosecutor Recruitment and Retention (continued)

Plans and Goals for FY 26:

- The SCCPC will continue to assist the Circuit Solicitors with their efforts to recruit and retain prosecutors into FY 26 and beyond. The SCCPC plans to host another prosecution job fair in FY 26 and continue posting open positions on the SCCPC's website.

TECHNICAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- The SCCPC lawyer staff also serves as a legal resource for and responds to regular requests for technical assistance from Solicitors and their staff on issues related to the prosecution function (including ethics, charging decisions, evidence, constitutional law, trial procedure, expert witnesses, disposition, advocacy, and appellate) and, upon request will assist in the drafting or review of trial and appellate pleadings. Over 100 requests for assistance were received and completed.
- The SCCPC continued working with the Offices of Circuit Solicitor toward compliance with the orders issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina in *Kenny v. Wilson*, which enjoined the prosecution of certain juveniles for one crime and required the expungement of convictions and adjudications of two sub-classes of juveniles for two crimes. The SCCPC collected information on the status of compliance from each Circuit Solicitor for compilation and submission to counsel for both parties.
- The SCCPC served as a resource for and/or provided technical assistance to other local and state agencies on issues related to criminal justice.

Plans and Goals for FY 26

- Agency staff will continue to provide technical assistance as requested.
- The SCCPC will continue to work with the Offices of Circuit Solicitor until the remaining Circuits are in full compliance with the orders issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina in *Kenny v. Wilson*, which enjoined the prosecution of certain juveniles for one crime and required the expungement of convictions and adjudications of two sub-classes of juveniles for two crimes. The SCCPC collected information on the status of compliance from each Circuit Solicitor for compilation and submission to counsel for both parties.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- The SCCPC actively and timely responded to inquiries from and provided input to the South Carolina General Assembly on legislation, budget requests, and fiscal impacts. This included appearing at subcommittee and committee hearings on bills of interest and, when necessary or requested by a member of the General Assembly or committee staff, providing testimony and/or coordinating testimony from a prosecutor or member of a prosecution office on bills before the subcommittee or committee.

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Government Relations (continued)

- The SCCPC staff continued to provide assistance to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor regarding legislative matters, including drafting proposed legislation on particular topics of interest and collecting and providing input on pending legislation to share with the General Assembly.
- The SCCPC’s Legislative Counsel tracked all pending legislation of interest to the SCCPC and/or Offices of Circuit Solicitor and provided summaries of and identified potential issues in bills as filed or amended, as well as followed the progression of bills through the General Assembly during the legislative session.
- The SCCPC’s Legislative Counsel provided weekly updates to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor on pending legislation, legislative action, and other relevant events of the South Carolina General Assembly during the legislative session, as well a comprehensive report at the conclusion of the legislative session and special updates on specific legislation as needed or requested.
- Notifications and summaries were provided to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, Attorney General, and municipal prosecutors registered with the SCCPC upon the enactment of relevant legislation by the South Carolina General Assembly. A Continuing Legal Education (CLE) training on the legislative process and an update on the legislative session was also offered and conducted.
- The SCCPC continued collaboration with other criminal justice partners, state agencies, and stakeholder groups on proposed legislation and prosecutorial matters.
- The SCCPC’s Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP) led a legislative working group comprised of experienced DUI prosecutors who, at the request of a state Senator, drafted comprehensive legislative language for a DUI bill and participated in legislative committee hearings on the bill to assist with questions.

Plans and Goals for FY 26

- The SCCPC will continue to act as liaison between the SCCPC, Offices of Circuit Solicitor, and the General Assembly regarding legislative matters.

TRAFFIC SAFETY RESOURCE PROSECUTOR (TSRP) PROGRAM

- In addition to developing and conducting DUI and traffic law trainings, which are included in the description and outcomes of trainings in the Education Services section, the SCCPC’s grant-funded TSRP was involved in various local and national impaired driving prevention initiatives as follows:
 - Attended 6 SCLN meetings with at least one meeting in each region of the state and made presentations on Ignition Interlock enforcement and the DUI legislative reform bill (S.52).
 - Made 3 presentations on DUI and Traffic law related topics at SC Bar CLE training and Victim Advocate Core Trainings.
 - Responded to requests for technical assistance from prosecutors, law enforcement officers, judges, and other members of the traffic safety community.
 - Served as an Ex-Officio member of the SC MADD Advisory Board and collaborated with this group on impaired driving prevention initiatives.

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TSRP Program (continued)

- Participated as a member of the SC Impaired Driving Prevention Council (IDPC) and currently serve as the Vice-chair of the committee.
- Participated in the NHTSA Impaired Driving Assessment of South Carolina by providing extensive and detailed information in response to an online survey and participated on a panel during the onsite review by the NHTSA Assessment Team.
- Attended the National TSRP Training Conference in Birmingham, Alabama.
- The Executive Director, in her capacity as Vice President during FY 25 and now President in FY 26 of the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC), actively worked to pursue a grant extension of the NAPC’s TSRP Grant awarded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Plans and Goals for FY 26

- NHTSA has invited the Executive Director, in her capacity as President of the NAPC, to a meeting in November 2025 with NHTSA’s Administrator and other leadership within NHTSA to share information about the NAPC, the traffic safety programs the NAPC supports, and the vital role the NAPC plays, with grant funds awarded by NHTSA, as the nation’s leading organization serving and bringing together Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRPs) across the country. NAPC has assisted NHTSA with the development of its Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Program and currently serves TSRPs in 48 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, including South Carolina’s TSRP, which is housed within the SCCPC.

DIVERSION AND TREATMENT COURT PROGRAMS

- The SCCPC continued to offer quarterly Zoom meetings for all diversion and treatment coordinators in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor.
- The SCCPC continues to partner with the sixteen statewide Circuit Directors of Diversion Programs to identify and bring to the Circuit Solicitors’ attention various issues affecting the performance of statewide diversion programs.
- The SCCPC Diversion Task Force has begun the process of standardizing the Alcohol Education Program and Traffic Education Program intake forms. The standardized forms will help lay the foundation for the new Diversion statewide database.
- The SCCPC, in partnership with SCAPIP, provided Pre-Trial Intervention in person training. The training included explanations of the state code of laws of which govern PTI programs and training for completing standardized statewide PTI intake forms.

Plans and Goals for FY 26

- The SCCPC will continue to coordinate and host virtual Diversion Discourse meetings and offer professional development and training opportunities for diversion and treatment court personnel in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor.

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Diversion and Treatment Court Programs (continued)

- The SCCPC Diversion Task force will continue to work on and complete the standardization of the Alcohol Education Program and Traffic Education Program intake forms. The goal is to complete this task early FY 26.
- The SCCPC, in partnership with the SCAPIP, have plans to provide further in person and virtual trainings on various diversion topics including working on a quick reference guide on diversion programs.

GRANTS

- The SCCPC applied for, received and managed federal grant funds for the John R. Justice Student Loan Forgiveness Program (JRJ Program) to recognized South Carolina prosecutor and public defender applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to public service with an award to lessen the financial strain of existing student loan debt. The availability of the award and notice of the application process is announced statewide, through directed emails, distribution to the law schools, and publication by the South Carolina Bar and is available to prosecutors and public defenders statewide. The total amount of the award available is divided equally between the eligible prosecutor and public defender applicants; if more of one type of applicant applies than the other, than the amount of the individual awards to the applicants in the smaller type of pool will be more than the applicants in the other pool receive. All eligible applicants received an award.
- The SCCPC was awarded grant funds for a Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (TSRP). The grant is administered and allocated in South Carolina by the Department of Public Safety, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs. Pursuant to grant requirements, the SCCPC conducts trainings for prosecutors, law enforcement, and summary court judges on traffic safety enforcement, prosecution, and adjudication, with a specific focus on DUI and traffic-related offenses.

Plans and Goals for FY 26

- The SCCPC will continue to actively seek and apply for grant opportunities that will continue to sustain and grow our programs.

TECHNOLOGY

- The SCCPC continued to made progress in FY 25 towards addressing the agency’s technology needs and developing reporting tools for the agency’s database project. The SCCPC also continued its partnership with the South Carolina Department of Administration’s Division of Technology Operations (DTO) to support the agency’s database project and continued use of Microsoft Azure Government Cloud which was specifically built to meet state and federal government compliance and security requirements. The Microsoft Azure Government Cloud infrastructure is being utilized to integrate data between the circuit case management systems and the SCCPC’s cloud database.

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- The SCCPC continued to work with its procured vendor, Team iA, on the design, development and implementation of its eForms workflow automation application for the collection and reporting of statewide prosecution data. The SCCPC eForms site allows data to be pulled from the case

Technology (continued)

management systems (CMS) in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor and prepopulated into the SCCPC eForms site and will also allow the circuits web-based access to the database where they may also manually enter any data not already in their CMS.

- In FY 25, the SCCPC further expanded the utilization of its eForms site by reviewing, testing and authorizing final production of two (2) additional report packets available for circuit reporting on the eForms site. In all, internal agency staff successfully launched five (5) report packets using the SCCPC eForms site, with three (3) of the reports utilizing Power BI integration with circuit Case Management Systems to pre-populate data into report packets on the SCCPC eForms site. Although great strides were made, there is still a significant amount of data the circuit Case Management Systems need to integrate with the SCCPC's Power BI database. Likewise, the SCCPC continues to work with Team iA, the agency's retained vendor responsible for development of the SCCPC eForms site, to verify report metrics, increase readability, and test and make corrections to the workflow automation process. The completion time of the database project is directly tied to the responsiveness and performance of the solicitors' CMS vendors and Team iA.
- The SCCPC continued to utilize the agency website to upload, edit, and modify job postings, update Circuit Solicitor information, and provide other various information to better serve the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, the public, and other stakeholders.
- The SCCPC monitored and managed the Circuit Solicitors' Westlaw accounts for the benefit and use of Offices of Circuit Solicitor to provide improved comprehensive legal research tools for prosecutors. This ensures price consistency and the negotiation of the most favorable terms for provided services in all circuit offices.
- The SCCPC utilized additional state funding appropriated in the 2024 Appropriations Act to bring staff computing resources into specification by retiring out of warranty devices and replacing them with new machines.
- SLED facilitated multi-factor authentication access for its current BIS Diversion Database system. This satisfied the security issues SLED identified with its application. Currently there is no urgency to modify established deadlines to immediately migrate to the new proposed replacement system. The SCCPC is still involved in procurement steps for a new updated Pretrial Intervention (PTI) database and application. Since PTI is only a small subset of total available statewide diversion programs available in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor, the goal for the project is to further expand the capabilities in the development of a new diversion database to allow for entry, tracking, and review of participation in and statistical data for all solicitor-run diversion programs. An additional goal for the new diversion database is to allow for enhanced accuracy in diversion program reporting, reduce duplicate data entry, and provide a more user-friendly interface for the Offices of Circuit Solicitor.

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- The SCCPC acquired a new event management software platform developed by Glue Up, which replaced a decades old system. The new system has simplified the event registration process for staff in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor and has made communication with and the distribution of

Technology (continued)

resources and materials to these offices more seamless. It also enables the SCCPC to track staffing more accurately within the Solicitors' offices.

Plans and Goals for FY 26

- The SCCPC will continue to work with the sixteen (16) Offices of Circuit Solicitor and their respective CMS vendors during FY 26 to pull additional reporting data in an automated manner. The goal is to maximize the data that can be integrated from the circuit case management systems to the SCCPC's Power BI database and ultimate pre-populated into report packets on the SCCPC eForms site to minimize manual entry of data. The automation of the circuits' data submission will also improve the consistency, efficiency and accuracy of reporting data.
- In FY 26, the SCCPC will continue to work with Team iA, the application developer of the SCCPC eForms site, to deploy the remaining e-form reports.
- In FY 26, the SCCPC will work with the South Carolina Solicitor's Association (SCSA) to purchase a portion of the audio equipment needed for conferences co-hosted by the SCCPC and the SCSA. The equipment to be purchased includes audio mixers, microphones, speakers, and other associated audio equipment, and the SCCPC technology team will learn the additional skills needed to operate and maintain this equipment. The acquisition and utilization of audio equipment for the trainings conducted by the SCCPC will more than pay for itself immediately at the SC Solicitors' Annual Conference. The rental of the same equipment from the conference site's external vendor plus the required labor and technical support fees the vendor charges for a single event is more expensive than the purchase of the equipment and the agency will be able to use this equipment for future Annual Conferences, Prosecution Bootcamp and other large trainings the agency conducts, eliminating significant expense in future years. The goal of the SCCPC and SCSA is to acquire all audio equipment needed for all trainings conducted by the SCCPC by FY 28 to increase agency effectiveness and achieve cost-efficiencies.
- The SCCPC expects to complete the procurement process for a new updated diversion database and application in FY 26.

OFFICES OF CIRCUIT SOLICITOR

The ongoing efforts and new initiatives of the sixteen elected circuit solicitors support the fair and swift prosecution of criminal cases, rehabilitation of offenders through diversion and treatment court programs, support for crime victims and witnesses, and public safety. The SCCPC's role is to coordinate and provide training programs, legal and legislative research and assistance, statewide prosecution data, legal and legislative updates and responses, and project assistance to support the solicitors' efforts. While the outcomes for the efforts and initiatives of the solicitors' offices are not directly under the control of or influenced by the SCCPC, the ability of the solicitors to carry out their efforts and initiatives is of utmost importance to the SCCPC and directly affects the ability of the SCCPC to effectively carry out the

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Commission's ongoing efforts and planned initiatives. Therefore, a brief description of these solicitor efforts, plans and goals follows:

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Offices of Circuit Solicitor (continued)

Recruitment and Retention

- The Circuit Solicitors continued to implement recruitment and retention efforts aimed at increasing prosecutor staffing and reducing the backlog of cases. At the beginning of FY 24, the Circuit Solicitors reported a goal of hiring approximately 75 new prosecutors statewide. As of September 2025, the Circuit Solicitors have successfully increased the number of prosecutors in their offices statewide by 71 to 456 total prosecutors compared to 385 prosecutors in July 2023. Increased state and county funding has allowed for salary increases to retain experienced prosecutors and increased starting pay for new prosecutors.
- The Offices of the Circuit Solicitor participated in a variety of recruitment events, including job fairs, and utilized both traditional and newer methods (such as social media and other digital platforms) to advertise available prosecution positions.
- The Circuit Solicitors also continued to increase non-attorney staffing in FY 25 to support the additional prosecutors hired. Statewide, non-attorney staffing in the Offices of Circuit Solicitor has increased by 64 positions since July 2023.

Docket Backlog

- The Offices of Circuit Solicitor continued in FY 25 to make significant strides towards increasing the number of warrants and cases that are disposed of each year. Based on data collected from the sixteen circuit solicitors' case management systems, which differs from data reported by the Judicial Branch, 19,087 more warrants were disposed of in FY 25 than in FY 23 (146,196 FY 25 warrant dispositions v. 127,109 FY 23 warrant dispositions).
- The solicitors' success in increasing the number of annual warrant dispositions has also resulted in an 8% reduction in docket backlog statewide between the start of FY 23 and the close of FY 25.

Technology

- In FY 25, the Circuit Solicitors have continued to make technology enhancements in their offices. Planned migration to web-based prosecution case management systems were completed during FY 25 except for limited data in some of the solicitor's old case management system that is unable to be transferred their new system.
- In furtherance of the 2023 SC Supreme Court Docket Management Order, multiple solicitors' offices implemented or continued operating a work rotation system for prosecutors in their office. The first part of this rotation system consists of a team of prosecutors working on new cases coming into the system. This "triage" approach seeks to identify cases that need to be diverted, remanded for further investigation, indicted, or dismissed early. The second part of the rotation system consists of prosecutors preparing cases. The third and final component of the rotation system is court, during which rotation a team of prosecutors try cases and take guilty pleas. Prosecutors spend approximately one month on each rotation.

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Offices of Circuit Solicitor (continued)

Plans and Goals for FY 26

- For FY 26, \$4.2 Million in additional recurring funding was appropriated in the 2025 Appropriations Act for general operational expenses of the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. This funding will be used by the statewide solicitors’ offices for increased annual technology expenses, for recruitment and retention of attorneys and non-attorney support staff, and for expenses associated with the solicitors’ various programs, including diversion and treatment court programs, for which statutory court fines and fees revenue continues to decline.
- Vigorous recruitment and retention efforts will continue in FY 26. Solicitors will continue to participate in state and national job fairs, “lunch and learn” events at South Carolina’s two law schools, law clerk internship programs, and recruitment and retention training courses.
- In FY 26, the solicitors’ case management system vendors will continue to work with the SCCPC to expand data integration capabilities, which will make reporting processes for the solicitors’ offices easier and more automated.

III. RESTRUCTURING RECOMMENDATIONS

The SCCPC does not have any restructuring recommendations for the elimination or combination of existing agency programs.

IV. RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

If the SCCPC does not meet its goals and objectives, the criminal justice system and the safety of South Carolina’s local communities will be adversely impacted. The SCCPC coordinates communication and collaboration among the Offices of Circuit Solicitor and criminal justice partners; gathers and reports data and information for the benefit of the General Assembly, Circuit Solicitors, other criminal justice agencies and the public; develops and provides training for prosecutors, law enforcement, judges, diversion coordinators, victim advocates and others; and provides legal assistance to the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. Circuit solicitors face several challenges requiring enhanced prosecutor training and continuing legal education and additional support and assistance from the SCCPC. As the number and experience of prosecutors within the solicitors’ offices change, the demands on the SCCPC continue to increase.

The training, effectiveness, and integrity of prosecutors and prosecution staff throughout South Carolina would be adversely impacted if the SCCPC were not provided the necessary staffing and resources needed to serve the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. As the Offices of Circuit Solicitor continue to tackle and reduce docket backlogs, they continue to face recruitment and retention challenges, particularly in smaller, more rural circuits. In larger circuits, population growth translates to an increased number of arrests. Simply put, the need for additional manpower will continue to affect solicitor offices in South Carolina. The SCCPC is uniquely positioned as the only agency or entity in South Carolina focused on serving the specific needs of the Offices of Circuit Solicitor. The Circuit Solicitors and their staffs rely on the SCCPC’s expertise and experience for training and technical legal assistance. The SCCPC’s primary challenge is the need for additional experienced attorneys to meet the Circuit Solicitors’ growing need for SCCPC’s services.