



## CONNECTICUT'S INVESTIGATORY GRAND JURY

By: Michelle Kirby, Senior Legislative Attorney

Carease Gadson, Senior Legislative Secretary

### Crimes the Investigatory Grand Jury May Investigate:

Government corruption, Medicaid vendor fraud, racketeering and organized crime, election law violations, certain terrorism-related crimes, and felonies punishable by more than five years imprisonment for which the prosecutor can show that he or she has no other means of obtaining sufficient information to determine whether a crime has been committed or the perpetrator's identity (CGS §§ 54-47b, et. seq.).

### Investigations Requested October 1985 – 2014:

- Applications - 41
- Approvals - 25
- Denials - 16
- Extensions - 28
- Amendment - 1

*Source: Reports submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly*

### ISSUE

Summary of requests to have a grand jury empaneled to investigate a crime (October 1985 – 2014).

### SUMMARY

An investigatory grand jury consists of a judge, constitutional state referee, or any three Superior Court judges appointed by the chief court administrator to investigate the commission of certain crimes ([CGS § 54-47b](#)). (The crimes are listed in the sidebar.)

Applications for grand jury investigations may be made by Superior, Appellate, or Supreme Court judges; the chief state's attorney; or a state's attorney ([CGS §§ 54-47c](#)). The application must be submitted to a panel of three Superior Court judges designated by the chief justice of the Supreme Court ([CGS § 54-47b](#)).

If the panel approves an application, its order must specify the investigation's scope and duration, which may be up to six months from the time the chief court administrator appoints the grand jury. The panel may grant up to two six-month extensions. It may also amend the scope of the investigation ([CGS § 54-47d](#)).



By law, the panel must report annually in January, through the chief court administrator, to the chief justice, governor, and General Assembly on the number of grand jury investigation applications received, applications approved, and extensions or amendments granted ([CGS § 54-47h](#)).

According to the reports, a total of 41 applications were filed from October 1, 1985 to December 31, 2014. The panel approved 61% of these applications and denied 39% of them. It granted 28 extensions and one amendment. This information is summarized by calendar year in Table 1 below.

For more information on the history of Connecticut's investigatory grand jury system, see OLR Report [2013-R-0366](#).

MK/CG:bs

**Table 1: Summary of Investigatory Grand Jury Requests**

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Calendar Year</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Approvals</i>	<i>Denials</i>	<i>Extensions</i>	<i>Amendments</i>
10/01/1985	12/31/1985	1985 (Oct - Dec)	2	1	1	0	0
01/01/1986	12/31/1986	1986	1	0	1	2	1
01/01/1987	12/31/1987	1987	3	2	1	1	0
01/01/1988	12/31/1988	1988	0	0	0	2	0
01/01/1989	12/31/1989	1989	0	0	0	0	0
01/01/1990	12/31/1990	1990	0	0	0	0	0
01/01/1991	12/31/1991	1991	0	0	0	0	0
01/01/1992	12/31/1992	1992*	3	2	1	-	-
01/01/1993	12/31/1993	1993	2	2	0	5	0
01/01/1994	12/31/1994	1994	0	0	0	1	0
01/01/1995	12/31/1995	1995	0	0	0	0	0
01/01/1996	12/31/1996	1996	0	0	0	0	0
01/01/1997	12/31/1997	1997	1	0	1	0	0
01/01/1998	12/31/1998	1998	2	1	1	1	0
01/01/1999	12/31/1999	1999	2	1	1	2	0
01/01/2000	12/31/2000	2000	3	2	1	0	0
01/01/2001	12/31/2001	2001	0	0	0	0	0
01/01/2002	12/31/2002	2002	1	1	0	0	0
01/01/2003	12/31/2003	2003	1	1	0	1	0
01/01/2004	12/31/2004	2004	2	2	0	1	0
01/01/2005	12/31/2005	2005	2	1	1	2	0
01/01/2006	12/31/2006	2006	1	0	1	0	0
01/01/2007	12/31/2007	2007	4	2	2	0	0
01/01/2008	12/31/2008	2008	3	1	2	2	0
01/01/2009	12/31/2009	2009	1	1	0	1	0
01/01/2010	12/31/2010	2010	4	2	2	3	0
01/01/2011	12/31/2011	2011	2	2	0	1	0
01/01/2012	12/31/2012	2012	1	1	0	2	0
01/01/2013	12/31/2013	2013	0	0	0	1	0
01/01/2014	12/31/2014	2014	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>41</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: Reports submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly (\*1992 numbers provided by the Judicial Branch).