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DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Darlene Johnson
Program Director
Office on Violence Against Women/USDOJ
810 Seventh Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Ms. Johnson:

The Division of Criminal Justice uses VAWA funds to maximize the effective and efficient prosecution of domestic violence cases by continuously refining and improving the victim-centered vertical prosecution model it employs in the state's specialized dockets. Six specially trained, full time prosecutors (Ansonia/Milford, Fairfield, Hartford, Stamford/Norwalk and Windham Judicial Districts) are 100% dedicated to prosecuting family violence cases. Highlights include the use of VAWA funding to staff the continuation of a dedicated domestic violence prosecution position (with significant experience and specialized expertise in sexual assault cases) in Ansonia/Milford, a domestic violence prosecutor in the rural district of Windham, and the continuing assignment of two domestic violence prosecutors in Hartford, which has the heaviest family violence caseload in the state.

The Division insists that offenders are held to an ever-increasing standard of accountability. The entire criminal justice system must work collaboratively to ensure that such accountability occurs within a rubric that recognizes the rights and needs of its multiple constituencies: the State of Connecticut, victims, and victim families.

The Division of Criminal Justice looks forward to continued collaboration with the Office of Justice Programs toward our joint goal of responding to crimes against women.

Sincerely yours,

Mitchell S. Forman
Manager -- Grants and Contracts.