

What is more fraudulent than a State violating parents through public corruption of the child welfare system for financial gains by fraud. It has been happening to me for over 40 years!

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## U.S. Forms New Team To Fight "Persistent," "High-Profile" Corruption In Connecticut



Corruption Task Force

Edmund H. Mahony

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(Edmund H. Mahony)



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Feds, struck by "persistent" criminal behavior by public officials in Connecticut, create an anti-corrupt

NEW HAVEN - Federal law enforcement officers, struck by what they called the persistent criminal behavior of government officials in Connecticut, said Wednesday that they have created a multi-agency, federal task force to fight public corruption in the state.

U.S. Attorney Deirdre M. Daly, who announced the task force and whose office will run it, said graft has become so pervasive in Connecticut that it is "discouraging and troubling" and a "persistently present problem." She also questioned the legislature's refusal to provide local prosecutors with effective crime fighting tools.

"High profile government corruption persists in Connecticut," she said, "So the time is opportune for us

to put together a top notch team."

Senior officers from five federal agencies gathered at the U.S. Attorney's office to say that they are participating in the Connecticut Public Corruption Task Force, which they said began operating "several months ago." All decried corruption as a blight on government, and some issued the special, grim assessment that it has become routine in Connecticut.

Among the materials the new task force distributed was five pages of synopses of "Select Public Corruption Prosecutions" showing that, since 2012, convictions for government or political malfeasance have occurred across the spectrum of government in the state, from a U.S. Post Office in Waterbury, to the Mashantucket Tribal nation in Ledyard, to a former governor.

Patty Ferrick, the Special Agent in Charge of Connecticut's FBI office, referred to Connecticut's "unfortunate history."

Daly said she briefed Chief State's Attorney Kevin Kane, Connecticut's top prosecutor, on the new task force Wednesday morning.

Daly said Kane's office will not participate and then said she is disturbed by the state's refusal to provide state prosecutors with the legal tools and authority used in every other state in the country by investigators pressing usually complex corruption cases.

Specifically, Daly was referring to the investigative grand jury, which enables prosecutors to compel testimony and the production of evidence. For decades, Connecticut's legislature has consistently denied pleas by state prosecutors for legislation authorizing investigative grand juries. The denials inevitably lead to questions in state and federal law enforcement about the legislature's will to root out corruption.

"It does trouble me," Daly said Wednesday. "They don't have a viable grand jury system, which hampers their ability to do complex cases. I can't think of any other state that is handicapped in that way."

At a press conference, Daly also was asked about political figures who attempt returns to public life following corruption convictions. Former Bridgeport state Sen. Ernest Newton lost a campaign re-election. Former Bridgeport Mayor Joseph P. Ganim is said to be considering one. And former Gov. [John G. Rowland](#) hosted a radio talk show between corruption convictions.

"We're in the business of detection and deterrence," Daly said. "We certainly want offenders to re-enter society. I'm not making any political statements. But the information is available to the public and I hope they make use of that information."

The task force consists of investigators from the FBI, IRS and the Inspector General Offices of the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development. It will be housed in the FBI's Meriden offices and directed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Mattei, who is responsible for prosecuting financial frauds and public corruption.

The task force has a special corruption tip hotline that will be answered around the clock, Daly said. The number is 1-800-CALL-FBI. To succeed, she said, the task force needs the cooperation of the public and government employees who see improper behavior. Callers can remain anonymous if they chose, she said.