

COD LIST SERVE

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Subject: **Connecticut Public Defenders - police brutality database**

DATABASE Cop Watch

Police Brutality Database

I. Statement of Purpose

The Bridgeport G.A.#2 public defenders office regularly represents people who have been injured by police during an arrest. These defendants are often held in lieu of bond and are represented by the public defenders office at their arraignment. As such, public defenders are the first to see/hear of these injured defendants and have the unique opportunity to start documenting these incidents.

Cop Watch is a database that will afford public defenders the ability to document cases of suspected excess force by police and to compile data regarding the circumstances of a defendant's arrest and injury. Access to this aggregated data will afford the public defender the ability to track excess force incidents, analyze the data and illustrate trends that may be associated with particular police officers and/or departments.

In addition, the Cop Watch database will provide the public defender a tool to document questionable arrests due to search and seizure issues. The database will allow the public defender to collect and document a police officer's suspicious conduct, actions, incriminating behavior, boilerplate language and/or scenarios in police reports, etc. Having the means to summarize such information on officers will provide a valuable tool to assist the public defender in preparing for a suppression hearings, justifying an in-camera review of a particular police officer's personnel records and/or providing impeachment material during a trial.

This user-friendly database will afford the public defender access to programmed queries that summarize data, as well as allowing for customized queries, each of which can generate printable reports with graphs and pictures.

II. Status of Project

The Cop Watch program is the final stages of design. The program is currently in the hands of our systems department. The program is being reviewed and modified to ensure a product that meets the design criteria and that is free of glitches that may cause a crash.

III. Vision for this Project

Cop Watch is expected to be a powerful tool, which will help public