

PAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Rob Duncan, Proxy for Attorney General Russell Coleman
Rewa Zakharia, Proxy for Attorney General Russell Coleman
Rob Sanders, Commonwealth's Attorney 16th Judicial Circuit
Jackie Steele, Commonwealth's Attorney 27th Judicial Circuit
Courtney Baxter, Commonwealth's Attorney 12th Judicial Circuit
Brian Wright, Commonwealth's Attorney 29th Judicial Circuit
Joe Ross, Logan County Attorney
Martin Hatfield, Pulaski County Attorney
John Estill, Mason County Attorney
Jennie Haymond, Madison County Attorney
Jenny Oldham, Hardin County Attorney
Margaret Daniel, Citizen Member
Lisa Foley, Citizen Member

PAC/OAG STAFF PRESENT

Bobby Stokes
Gina Carey
Jenny True-Reed
Kathy Phillips
Tom Lockridge
Harry Rothgerber
Patricia Wise
Alyssa Logan
Julie Cox
Samantha Bracco
Destiny Bray
Penny Quatman
Susan Blake
Chad Coleman
Tammy Eversole
Amanda Ciejko
Letitia Baker

GUESTS PRESENT

Mike Lindsey, Commonwealth's Attorney 49th Judicial Circuit
Kori Bumgarner, Commonwealth's Attorney 8th Judicial Circuit
Kelli Kearney, Commonwealth's Attorney 14th Judicial Circuit

Maureen Leamy, Commonwealth's Attorney 3rd Judicial Circuit
Kimberly Baird, Commonwealth's Attorney 22nd Judicial Circuit
J. Michael VanMeter, Commonwealth's Attorney 6th Judicial Circuit
Shannon Powers, Commonwealth's Attorney 52nd Judicial Circuit
Gerina Whethers, Commonwealth's Attorney 30th Judicial Circuit
Steve Gold, Henderson County Attorney
Dennis Foust, Commonwealth's Attorney 42nd Judicial Circuit
Ashton McKenzie, Commonwealth's Attorney 21st Judicial Circuit
R. Keith Craycraft, Montgomery County Attorney
Louis Kelly, Commonwealth's Attorney 54th Judicial Circuit

Pursuant to KRS 15.100(2), Executive Director, Bobby Stokes called the roll. After the roll was called, a quorum was announced, and the meeting was called to order. Bobby welcomed everyone to the February 18th, 2026, PAC meeting and reminded everyone to be sure to sign-in.

Bobby Stokes directed the Council to review the meeting minutes from Friday, January 16th, 2026, PAC meeting for approval. Rob Sanders made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE

TRAINING UPDATE

Susan Blake reported that the Leadership Challenge Course originally scheduled for January was postponed due to the weather. The new dates are March 23 and 24 at the same location. The course remained full because attendees were able to attend the new dates. Evidence Bootcamp will occur on April 16th, 2026. Quotes for a potential second course to accommodate the demand to occur in the fall will be presented at a future Council meeting. A new orientation is in planning stages for new PAC Council members to occur that week. The County Attorney basic training to be held the first week of December, bids were solicited from 4 different hotels, and the Louisville Marriott East had the lowest bid. We will be awaiting budget information before signing any contracts for future training. 2026 KPC planning is underway. A draft agenda is in the Council materials.

Susan Blake reported that a training course for Victim Advocates has been filmed, edited, and will be added to the library. Employment law training in two parts has also been completed and approved for CLE. Notice will go out when these videos are available. We plan to add more administrative information to the video library soon.

RESOURCE PROSECUTOR UPDATE

Jenny True Reed, the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, stated that she has continued with the monthly TSRP webinars. There will be a TRSP update on February 25th, 2026. Prosecuting the Drugged Driver Training will be held in Newport, KY on March 31st- April 2, 2026. DUI Basic Training will be held in Lexington this May. Lethal Weapon Training will be in Somerset in June. All training will be free.

Kathy Phillips, Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor, reported that the recorded Strangulation webinar she presented with Dr. Jill Brummett, forensic nurse, is now posted on the PAC training intranet under Mandatory Topics and is available for prosecutors to obtain CLE credit.

She also advised that she is scheduled to conduct a four-hour training on March 17 in Graves County for KSP Post 1 on best practices in domestic violence investigation and prosecution. This training is available to prosecutors and multidisciplinary partners who may wish to attend.

Tom Lockridge, Violent Crime Resource Prosecutor, stated that he has had some very interesting questions coming in from the Commonwealth. He stated that he has been working on a new case out of Jefferson County. There is a trial he is working on set for April.

Tom Lockridge reported that he assisted Susan Burke in shooting a new training video that will be available soon.

CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM UPDATE

Alyssa Logan reported that the Case Management System was updated to a new version on February 13. The update resolved a number of outstanding issues. While a few post-update items are still being addressed, the team feels confident moving forward with expansion to the remaining pilot sites.

The 22nd Judicial Circuit will be excluded from this phase pending completion of the data conversion project.

Alyssa Logan further informed the Council that Chad will be contacting the remaining pilot sites to establish user accounts and schedule training sessions. He anticipates completing the account setup and training within the month.

Gina Carey addressed the Council to thank Louis Kelly and Jordan Turner as they have been instrumental in testing the program and ensuring it functions in a manner that is practical for office use. Gina noted that several issues were encountered with the discovery portal during testing; however, those concerns have largely been resolved.

Gina Carey reiterated that Chad indicated he is comfortable moving forward with implementation. The rollout will begin with pilot sites, with additional enhancements to be made as the system continues to develop.

ROCKET DOCKET INTERIM REPORT REVIEW

Bobby Stokes directed the Council to their folders to review the draft 2026 PAC Rocket Docket Interim report to the Justice Cabinet created by Gina Carey with data collected by Carol Ray. Bobby informed the Council that since the inception of the Rocket Docket Program in 2015, the program has saved local jail costs more than \$340 million. The program continues to demonstrate significant financial impact, and its expansion by the Council has further strengthened those outcomes.

Members were asked to review the report. Upon approval, it will be submitted accordingly. Rob Sanders made a motion to approve the 2026 PAC Rocket Docket Interim report, with a second from Jenny Oldham and passed by voice vote.

PAC STAFF PAYROLL CERTIFICATIONS

Bobby Stokes directed the Council to review the January 1st, 2026; through February 15th, 2026, PAC/UPS staff payroll certifications in the folders provided for approval.

Rob Sanders made a motion to approve January 1st through February 15th, 2026 PAC/UPS staff payroll certifications, the motion was seconded by Jackie Steele and passed by voice vote.

BUDGET

FY2026 BUDGET UPDATE

Gina Carey reported that health insurance costs for the current fiscal year were higher than originally budgeted due to employee plan selections. Employer contributions increased approximately 25% for County Attorneys and 29% for Commonwealth's Attorneys as a result of more employees selecting higher-tier plans. Funds are

available within the current budget to cover these increases. However, the higher costs will impact the upcoming biennial budget request. Gina Carey, Louis Kelly, and Joe Ross have communicated the increase with legislators and the budget office, as their current projections that were based on August 2025 figures that do not reflect these increases which began with the December 2025 payrolls.

Gina Carey reminded the Council that it is nearly the point in the fiscal year where reminders will soon be sent regarding the use of remaining operating funds. Because processing and invoicing can take significant time, offices are encouraged to submit requests as soon as possible.

Gina Carey also informed the Council that if anticipated expenses exceed current budget allocations, members were asked to submit those requests for consideration. Such requests will be reviewed and honored if funds remain.

BIENNIAL BUDGET UPDATE

Gina Carey informed the Council that the Executive Budget Bill, HB 500, has been released and is publicly accessible. Gina then recognized Joe Ross (County Attorneys) and Rob Sanders (Commonwealth's Attorneys) to provide an update regarding actions taken to address funding concerns in the current version of the bill.

Joe Ross reported that both the Governor's proposed budget and the House version raised concerns. The House budget applied a uniform formula across state agencies, reducing budgets by four percent, then adding two percent for salary increases. In the following fiscal year, budgets would be reduced by an additional three percent and then increased by two percent.

Joe Ross explained that this formula is not workable for County Attorney offices, as approximately 96 percent of their budgets consist of staff salaries, benefits, and retirement contributions. Over the past two weeks, representatives have met with members of the House and Senate at multiple levels to communicate that if the intent is to provide employees with a two percent raise, the current budget structure will not accomplish that goal without additional funding.

Joe Ross reported that there appears to be willingness among legislators to address the issue. The fiscal year 2027 impact would require a relatively small increase—estimated at a few million dollars, but the fiscal year 2028 impact would be significantly

larger. While discussions have gained positive traction, additional support from the Council may be requested if needed.

Joe Ross emphasized that furloughs have been used in the past and stated that they do not wish to repeat that approach. He noted that in order to provide raises, additional funding must be appropriated, which was not contemplated in the current version of the House budget.

Joe Ross concluded by stating that he and Louis Kelly will present before the A&R, General Government Subcommittee next Thursday, February 26th, where agencies were directed to present their budget requests. He expressed confidence that they have a compelling case and indicated that further updates will follow.

Rob Sanders provided background on the legislative budget process. It was explained that when funding remains in the budget for a sufficient period, it becomes part of what the legislature refers to as the “base.”

House Bill 500 effectively reduces agencies to their base funding levels, requiring each entity of state government to justify its base budget and explain how those funding levels were established.

If passed as currently written, HB 500 would result in a reduction of approximately \$4 million for Commonwealth’s Attorneys in fiscal year 2027 and \$6 million in fiscal year 2028.

It was noted, however, that HB 500 is being described by legislative leadership as a starting point and not the final version of the budget. Meetings have begun with legislators, and members reported strong receptiveness to restoring cuts, particularly within personnel budgets. The primary goal is to ensure that no staff positions are eliminated and that salaries are not reduced. Legislators are currently discussing a potential two percent across-the-board increase for employees.

It was further reported that elected officials remain subject to notwithstanding language affecting CPI adjustments to their statutory salaries. While efforts continue to address this issue, immediate priority remains protecting staff salaries and positions.

Members were reminded that the final budget will emerge from the conference committee process. Continued engagement with legislators is ongoing. Council members were advised to remain prepared to contact legislators if requested. It was emphasized that such a request would indicate a critical stage in negotiations and should be treated with urgency. At this time, discussions remain positive, and there is no immediate cause for alarm.

SALARY CLASSIFICATION PLAN REVISIONS

Gina Carey referred the Council to a handout in their folders outlining the SCCP salary plans for the County and Commonwealth's Attorneys. She reported that during the December revisions, several classifications were inadvertently overlooked and are now out of alignment.

COMMONWEALTH'S DETECTIVE SUPERVISOR

Gina Carey noted that the Commonwealth's Detective Supervisor classification is currently set at a minimum salary nearly equal to that of a Commonwealth's Detective II, creating an issue. Although there are currently no employees in that classification, an adjustment was recommended for alignment purposes.

Rob Sanders stated that it made sense to correct the classification and proposed setting the base salary for the Commonwealth's Detective Supervisor at \$90,000 annually, with corresponding calculations for part-time positions.

Rob Sanders made a motion to amend the SCCP base salary for Commonwealth's Detective Supervisor to \$90,000 annually, with part-time adjustments to be calculated accordingly. Motion was seconded by Brian Wright and passed by voice vote.

PARALEGAL CLASSIFICATIONS

Gina Carey reported that the Paralegal I and Paralegal II classifications were also overlooked and are now out of alignment with the Administrative Specialist salary structure. She noted there are relatively few paralegals statewide, so the fiscal impact would be minimal.

John Estill stated that the paralegal position was originally created as a step above a secretary and is a skilled position that should be compensated accordingly. Discussion clarified that while there is a paralegal degree, there is no specific Kentucky certification requirement.

Joe Ross proposed aligning:

- Paralegal I salary with Administrative Specialist II
- Paralegal II salary with Administrative Specialist III

Gina Carey confirmed she would adjust part-time calculations consistent with other classifications.

Joe Ross motioned to amend Paralegal I to align with Administrative Specialist II salary and Paralegal II to align with Administrative Specialist III salary. Motion was seconded by Rob Duncan and passed by voice vote.

EXPERIENCE RECOGNITION – ADMINISTRATIVE AND PARALEGAL POSITIONS

Gina Carey stated that when prior experience recognition was expanded to include service with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), federal criminal justice agencies, local County Attorney offices, and the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General (OAG), the changes were applied to attorney classifications but not to administrative or paralegal positions.

Joe Ross indicated that the intent had been to apply those changes across classifications and moved to correct the oversight.

Joe Ross motioned to amend the administrative and paralegal classifications to align with attorney positions regarding recognition of prior experience and training (AOC, OAG, local payroll, and applicable federal service). Motion seconded by Jackie Steele and passed by voice vote.

SALARY CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION REQUESTS

Gina Carey referred the Council to the provided County and Commonwealth's SCCP requests spreadsheets in their folders and the supporting letters in their packets.

Rob Sanders reminded members that it is the responsibility of each requesting Commonwealth's or County Attorney to obtain proper documentation supporting prior experience claims. A simple letter stating prior years of service is insufficient; documentation must be formally requested and provided.

Gina Carey informed the Council of the SCCP requests from the Commonwealth's Attorneys:

- 6th Circuit – 1 request
- 8th Circuit – 3 requests
- 12th Circuit – 1 request
- 52nd Circuit – 1 request

Commonwealth's Attorney
FY26 SCCP Requests
for 2/18/26 meeting

Date of Request	Circuit	CA	Position Requested	Status
2/18/2026 6th	Van Meter	VA II to VA III		FT
2/18/2026 8th	Bumgarner	1st Asst IV +10 to 1st Asst IV +10 UPS		FT
2/18/2026 8th	Bumgarner	Exec Admin Asst		FT
2/18/2026 8th	Bumgarner	Comm Det II - Cert to Comm Det III - Cert		FT
2/18/2026 12th	Baxter	Executive Admin		FT
2/18/2026 52nd	Powers	PT Admin Spec I to FT Admin Spec III		PT to FT

Rob Sanders made the motion to approve all Commonwealth's Attorneys' SCCP requests. The motion was seconded by Jackie Steele and passed by voice vote. Courtney Baxter, 12th Judicial Circuit, abstained.

Gina Carey informed the County Attorneys on a few items that would have been an issue prior to the approval of the amendment to the experience requirements for the administrative and paralegal positions. She stated that many requests involved AOC experience as well as a request from Boone County to advance a Victims Advocate I to a III, based on prior experience in local law enforcement. All were deemed applicable after the aforementioned, approved motion.

**County Attorney
FY26 SCCP Requests
for 2/18/26 meeting**

Date of Request	County	CA	Position Requested	Status
2/18/2026	Jefferson	O'Connell	FT Admin Spec I to PT Admin Spec III	FT to PT
2/18/2026	McCracken	Foster	Asst III to Asst IV	FT
2/18/2026	McCracken	Foster	VA II to VA III	FT
2/18/2026	Madison	Haymond	Paralegal I to Admin Spec III	FT
2/18/2026	Madison	Haymond	1st Asst IV +10 to 1st Asst IV +10 UPS	PT
2/18/2026	Montgomery	Craycraft	Admin Spec II to Admin Spec III	FT
2/18/2026	Pike	Howard	VA I to VA III	FT
2/18/2026	Rowan	Watkins	Exec Admin	FT

Joe Ross motioned to approve all County Attorney SCCP requests. Motion was seconded by Martin Hatfield and passed by a voice vote. Jennie Haymond, Madison County, and Jenny Oldham, Hardin County, abstained.

LEASES

2nd Judicial Circuit

Bobby Stokes stated that the 2nd Judicial Circuit requested approval to work with Real Properties to seek alternative office space, as the current space has HVAC and other significant issues with the building.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve the request to begin the process, seconded by Rob Sanders and passed by voice vote.

9th Judicial Circuit

Bobby Stokes stated that the lessor for the office space for the 9th Judicial Circuit requested a rate increase. Due to the rate increase request, a new bid process is required, and Real Properties has initiated the process.

22nd Judicial Circuit

Bobby Stokes directed the counsel to the information in their meeting materials regarding the recalculation of office space and storage space for the 22nd Judicial Circuit. The Division of Real Properties remeasured the space and identified a discrepancy and corrected the total square footage. Due to the difference in the office space within the current lease versus the additional storage space being used and not paid for, the difference will result in an overall annual rate increase of \$5,488.

Courtney Baxter made a motion to approve the rate increase of \$5,488 annually, seconded by Rob Sanders and passed by voice vote.

46th Judicial Circuit

Bobby Stokes stated that the 46th Judicial Circuit's office had extensive issues with plumbing, sewer, and utilities due to the building's age and condition. Additionally, Grayson County requested an increase from 2,663 sq ft to 3,420 sq ft which encompasses actual space being used. The original lease rate was \$11.29 sq ft, and the requested increase is \$12.00 sq ft for an annual increase of \$10,975.

Brian Wright made a motion to approve the increase and have PAC staff begin working with Real Properties to seek replacement space, seconded by Jackie Steele and passed by voice vote.

PERSONNEL REQUESTS

NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRED

1. Kori Bumgarner, Commonwealth's Attorney 8th Judicial Circuit, requested approval to establish a temporary quarter-time Law Clerk position to be paid using asset forfeiture funds from May 16, 2026, through August 15, 2026.

Rob Sanders made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 1, the motion was seconded by Jackie Steele and passed by voice vote.

2. Leigh Ann Roberts, Commonwealth's Attorney 15th Judicial Circuit, requested approval to:

- a) Reclassify a full-time Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney I position to a part-time Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney I position with no additional funds retroactive to February 1, 2026.
- b) Reallocate a quarter-time Administrative Specialist II position to a quarter-time Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney I position with no additional funds retroactive to February 1, 2026.
- c) Establish a temporary quarter-time Law Clerk position funded using asset forfeiture funds effective June 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 2, the motion was seconded by Rob Duncan and passed by voice vote.

3. Rob Sanders, Commonwealth's Attorney 16th Judicial Circuit, requested approval to reclassify a full-time Administrative Specialist I position to a full-time Administrative Specialist II position with no additional funds effective March 1, 2026.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 3, the motion was seconded by Rob Duncan and passed by voice vote.

4. Dennis Foust, Commonwealth's Attorney 42nd Judicial Circuit, requested approval to establish a temporary quarter-time Law Clerk position to be paid using asset forfeiture funds from June 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026.

Jackie Steele made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 4, the motion was seconded by Rob Sanders and passed by voice vote.

5. William Elkins, Clark County Attorney, requested approval to reclassify a full-time Administrative Specialist III position to a part-time Administrative Specialist I and to establish a quarter-time Administrative Specialist I position effective March 1, 2026

Joe Ross made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 5, the motion was

seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

6. Russ Goff, Green County Attorney, requested approval to allow PAC to administer local funds to supplement a salary increase for a full-time Victim Advocate I position effective March 1, 2026.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 6, the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

7 Stacy Tapke, Kenton County Attorney, requested approval to reclassify a full-time Assistant County Attorney II position to a full-time First Assistant County Attorney II position effective March 1, 2026.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 7, the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

8. Jennie Haymond, Madison County Attorney, requested approval to:

- a) Reclassify a quarter-time Assistant County Attorney I position to a quarter-time Assistant County Attorney II position effective March 1, 2026.
- b) Reclassify two (2) full-time Paralegal I positions to two (2) full-time Paralegal II positions effective March 1, 2026.

Jennie Haymond, Madison County Attorney abstained from voting on this motion.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 8, the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

9. Sidney Durham, Meade County Attorney, requested approval to reallocate part-time Assistant County Attorney I position to a part-time Law Clerk position and revert back upon successful completion of the KY Bar retroactive to February 1, 2026.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 9, the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

10. Paul Howard, Jr., Pike County Attorney, requested approval to reclassify a full-time Victim Advocate III position to a full-time Victim Advocate Supervisor position effective March 1, 2026.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 10, the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

11. Carrie McIntyre, Shelby County Attorney, requested approval to establish a quarter-time shared Assistant County Attorney I position with the Commonwealth's Attorney for the 53rd Judicial Circuit and to allow PAC to administer local funds to supplement salary with no additional funds retroactive to February 16, 2026.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 11, the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

12. Thomas Simmons, Wayne County Attorney, requested approval to reclassify a part-time Administrative Specialist I position to a full-time Administrative I position with no additional funds effective March 1, 2026.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 12, the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

13. Steven Franzen, Campbell County Attorney, requested approval to reclassify an Assistant County Attorney I full-time position to a Assistant County Attorney I part-time position with no additional funds effective March 1, 2026.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve no additional funds request A 13, the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRED

1. Maureen Leamy, Commonwealth's Attorney 3rd Judicial Circuit, requested approval to reallocate a full-time Paralegal II position to a full-time Administrative Specialist I position with additional funds effective March 1, 2026.

Brian Wright made a motion to table the additional funds request B-1, the motion was seconded by Jackie Steele and passed by voice vote.

2. Ronnie Bowling, Commonwealth's Attorney 34th Judicial Circuit, requested approval to reallocate a full-time Commonwealth's Detective I position to a full-time Commonwealth's Detective III Certified position effective March 1, 2026. Gina explained that this was necessary because the position was a new position from 2025 and not eligible for SCCP funds.

Rob Sanders made a motion to approve the additional funds request B-1, the motion

was seconded by Brian Wright and passed by voice vote.

3. Jennie Haymond, Madison County Attorney, requested approval to reallocate a full-time Prosecuting Staff Attorney Supervisor IV +10 position to a full-time Prosecuting Staff Attorney Supervisor IV +10 UPS position effective March 1, 2026. Gina explained that this was necessary because the position was a new position from 2025 and not eligible for SCCP funds.

Jennie Haymond, Madison County Attorney abstained from voting on this motion.

Joe Ross made a motion to approve the additional funds request B-1, the motion was seconded by Lisa Foley and passed by voice vote.

ADJOURN

Bobby Stokes congratulated Ronnie Bowling for a successful Winter Conference and thanked him for his efforts.

Bobby Stokes reminded the Council that the next PAC Meeting will be on March 20th, 2026 in Frankfort Kentucky at 10 AM EDT, at the Office of the Attorney General.

Rob Sanders made a motion to adjourn at 1:13 PM EST; the motion was seconded by Margaret Daniels and passed by voice vote.