

# ERIC F. RINEHART

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## MEMO

DATE: February 9, 2026

TO: Darcy Adcock, Human Resources Director

FROM: Eric Rinehart, Lake County State's Attorney

RE: Request for Senior Victim Specialist Position to Staff Consolidated Domestic Violence Courtroom T511

The Courts have indicated they will be consolidating all felony Domestic Violence cases into Courtroom T511, alongside misdemeanor Domestic Violence matters, as early as May of 2026. This consolidation presents staffing challenges with respect to our victim services division, as we will not have a Senior Victim Specialist to assign to this Courtroom.

Our Victim Services Division houses our victim specialists, which are tasked with ensuring that the State's Attorney's Office effectively performs our statutory duties under Article I, Section 8.1 of the Illinois Constitution as well as under the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act (725 ILCS 120). To be clear, there are no other staff members within the State's Attorney's Office who have adequate training, or the current capacity, to take on this work.

### **Current Staffing Structure:**

- One Senior Victim Specialist is assigned to each of the five felony courtrooms.
- This Senior Victim Specialist handles all cases (not just domestic violence) within their courtroom that have victims. They also assist with witness contact and trial support. They carry caseloads close to 200 cases.
- Each felony courtroom already has an Assistant State's Attorney dedicated to prosecuting domestic violence cases. These attorneys can transition to the consolidated domestic violence courtroom without any staffing concerns. However, there is not a dedicated domestic violence victim specialist to move to this courtroom because that position currently does not exist within the State's Attorney's Office

### **Impact of Consolidation:**

- Consolidating all domestic violence cases into one courtroom creates a courtroom where 100% of the cases require a victim specialist.
- Currently, we do not have a position that could move into this courtroom.
- Currently, our office has 262 pending felony domestic violence cases. There are an

additional 70 cases in front of felony judges post plea (i.e., before a Judge due to violating probation conditions).

- Victim specialists are already carrying high caseloads. Recent amendments to the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Act have also added new duties to our victim specialists. Reassigning victim specialists from other courtrooms is simply not feasible.

**Staffing Request:**

To meet our statutory requirements and maintain manageable workloads, the State's Attorney's Office is requesting one additional Senior Victim Specialist to staff Courtroom T511.

- This position is grade level of Salary 9.
- This position requires funding for computer equipment (laptop/monitors/keyboard/mouse) in addition to salary

This request has already been discussed with County Administrator Patrice Sutton and is being brought to the Law and Judicial committee meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Please let me know if you need anything else from me to facilitate this request.

Thank you.