



**STATE OF NEVADA**  
**ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS**  
100 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

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## **APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Organization:** Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys

**Date and Time of Meeting:** July 25, 2023 • 8:00 a.m.

**Place of Meeting:** Virtual Meeting  
**Link:** [Click here to join the meeting](#) (Microsoft Teams)  
**Meeting ID:** 218 128 055 106 **Passcode:** yWCr3P  
**Call in (audio only):** 775-321-6111  
**Conference ID:** 234 619 658#

### **Members Present**

Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General, Chair  
Christopher Hicks, Washoe County District Attorney  
Steven Wolfson, Clark County District Attorney  
Mark Jackson, Douglas County District Attorney  
Wes Duncan, Sparks City Attorney  
Carly Helbert, Las Vegas Assistant City Attorney

### **Staff Present**

Michael K. Morton, Special Assistant Attorney General

### **Guests Present**

Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Attorney General  
Nicole Reilly, Domestic Violence Ombudsmen, Office of the Attorney General  
Jamie Prosser, Assistant Sheriff, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

#### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call.**

- *All members present.*

#### **2. Public Comment.**

Public comment shall be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item, until scheduled on the agenda of a future meeting for possible action.

- *No public comment was offered.*
3. **Approval of minutes of April 11, 2022 meeting. (For possible action)** (Attachment 1 – Minutes from April 11, 2022 Meeting).
    - *Christopher Hicks moved to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2022 meeting. Wes Duncan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously, with Mark Jackson and Carly Helbert abstaining from the vote.*
  4. **Chair’s Report.**
    - *Attorney General Ford provided a brief update on the status of the Advisory Council, stating that the membership of the Advisory Council is nearly complete, stating that the only vacancy is the spot filled by a peace officer employed by a law enforcement agency, who is appointed by the Governor. Mr. Morton has been working with the Governor’s Office on this appointment, and it should be made in time for the Advisory Council’s next meeting.*
    - *Attorney General Ford also provided a summary of a meeting he had with Vice President Kamala Harris regarding state and federal efforts to curb fentanyl trafficking.*
  5. **Nominations and election of Chair of the Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys for a term ending June 30, 2024, pursuant to NRS 241A.040(2). (For possible action)**
    - *Mark Jackson nominated Attorney General Ford to serve as Chair of the Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys for a term ending June 30, 2024. Steven Wolfson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
  6. **Nominations and election of Vice Chair of the Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys for a term ending June 30, 2024, pursuant to NRS 241A.040(2). (For possible action)**
    - *Mark Jackson nominated Christopher Hicks to serve as Vice Chair of the Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys for a term ending June 30, 2024. Wes Duncan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
  7. **Discussion on appointment of Michael K. Morton, Special Assistant Attorney General, as Executive Director of the Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys pursuant to NRS 241A.060(1). (For possible action)**
    - *Steven Wolfson moved to nominate Michael K. Morton as Executive Director of the Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys. Mark Jackson seconded the motion. Christopher Hicks asked for a summary of Mr. Morton’s background and credentials. Discussion was had. The motion passed unanimously.*
  8. **Executive Director’s Report.**
    - a. Budget. (Attachment 2 – Summary Detail Report of Budget Account 1041).

- *Mr. Morton provided an overview of the budget for the Advisory Council for the 2023-25 biennium. Discussion was had regarding how reserves could be utilized and the IFC approval process for accessing those reserves.*
    - b. Explanation of per diem allowance and travel expense reimbursement process.
      - *Mr. Morton provided an overview of how the expense reimbursement process works for Advisory Council members who travel for in-person meetings. Mr. Morton noted that the travel budget for the Advisory Council is quite lean and is shared between members and staff.*
    - c. 2023 NVPAC Events Calendar
      - *Discussion was had regarding additional training and events that could take place in addition to the annual prosecutors' conference. The possibility of additional law enforcement summits was mentioned.*
    - d. Grant funding for training and technical assistance.
      - *Mr. Morton discussed pursuing grant opportunities through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and other government agencies. Steven Wolfson requested more information regarding obtaining grant funds through the Resilient Nevada Fund.*
    - e. Involvement with other state agencies, boards, commissions, and task forces.
      - *Mr. Morton explained his office's role in coordinating with other entities, such as the Technological Crime Advisory Board, the Committee on Domestic Violence, and others.*
9. **Discussion on duties of the Advisory Council as set forth in NRS 241A.070. (For possible action)**
- *Mr. Morton gave a summary of the duties of the Advisory Council described in NRS 241A.070. Steven Wolfson mentioned details of the Advisory Council's role in advocating for certain pieces of legislation that relate to the administration of justice and prosecutors generally. Discussion was had regarding legislative efforts during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature, specifically related to proposed legislation regarding compensation for locally elected officials.*
10. **Report from the Attorney General on various boards, committees, and working groups.**
- a. Committee on Domestic Violence (NRS 228.470).
    - *Attorney General Ford noted that the Attorney General's Office provided the biennial report from the Committee on Domestic Violence, which was published March 1, 2023. This report summarizes the work done by the Committee during 2021 and 2022. Attorney General Ford stated that the Committee continues to do good work in 2023, meeting six times already this year.*
    - *Nicole Reilly, the domestic violence ombudsman for the Attorney General's Office, provided an update on the Committee's work, and mentioned possible collaborative opportunities that exist for the Committee and the Advisory Council to work together.*
    - *Discussion was had regarding a future agenda item regarding a centralized reporting system for prosecutors and judges.*
  - b. Technological Crime Advisory Board (NRS 205A.040).

- *Attorney General Ford noted that the Technological Crime Advisory Board has not had a quorum of appointed members for a few years now, but Mr. Morton has been working closely with the Governor's Office and the Legislature to attain enough Committee members to reach a quorum.*
  - *Among the duties of the Board are:*
    - *Facilitating cooperation among state, local and federal officers in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of technological crimes.*
    - *Establishment and oversight of two multi-agency task forces, one based in Reno and one based in Las Vegas.*
    - *Coordination and provision of training and education to prevent and detect technological crimes.*
    - *Assisting the Department of Information Technology to secure government information systems against intrusion.*
    - *Recommending changes to Nevada laws to respond to technological change and law enforcement requirements.*
  - *Attorney General Ford stated that his office looks forward to reconvening this Advisory Board to assist the Attorney General's Office in continuing the work that it has done to both fight against tech crimes as they happen, but to also educate and empower Nevadans to stop these crimes before they happen.*
- c. Substance use Response Working group (NRS 458.460).
- *The Attorney General's Office provided the most recent annual report of the Substance Use Response Working Group, which was published January 1, 2023. This annual report was the first one to contain policy recommendations, some of which were enacted into law with the passage and approval of Senate Bill 35 this past legislative session.*
  - *Since the publication of the 2022 annual report, the Working Group has changed the process for policy recommendations adopted by the Group. Prior to the change, the members of the Working Group would rank all recommendations in order to find the ones supported by the largest majority of members. This year, the Working Group's three subcommittees will use certain criteria – impact, capability/feasibility, urgency, and equity – to rank their recommendations. Once the subcommittees have developed and ranked their recommendations, they will be forwarded to the full Working Group for weighting and recommendation.*
  - *Discussion was had regarding a future agenda item related to testing labs and how substances are tested now, and how they need to be tested in the future.*

11. **Discussion/updates regarding various commissions or committees**

- a. Nevada Sentencing Commission (NRS 176.0133) (Washoe County DA Christopher Hicks)
- *Christopher Hicks provided an update on the Nevada Sentencing Commission,*

*and the work that has been done in the past few years with the Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy.*

b. NDAA Prosecution Best Practices Committee

- *This item was tabled to a future agenda.*

12. **Discussion on dates, locations, and topics for the 2023 Prosecutors Conference.**

- *Mr. Morton provided an update on the dates and location of the 2023 conference, stating that it would take place at the Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas, September 20-22, but was waiting to make registration for the conference go live until the contract was executed.*
- *Discussion was had regarding potential topics to be presented at the conference, including:*
  - *Prosecution of mass violence*
  - *Fentanyl*
  - *Brady issues*
  - *Domestic violence*
  - *Social media use*
  - *Vicarious trauma*
  - *Trauma-informed work with victims*
  - *Jury selection*
  - *Tribal issues*
  - *Psilocybin*
  - *Truth in sentencing/SB412*

13. **Discussion on the nominating procedure for the William J. Raggio Award.**

(Attachment 3 – Nomination form for the 2023 William J. Raggio Award)

- *Mr. Morton provided the Advisory Council with the nomination form and procedures for nominating individuals for the William J. Raggio Award. Mr. Morton noted that the deadline for submission would be August 6, 2023.*

14. **Council Comments.** (For discussion only – action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item, but matters may be scheduled on future agendas)

- *Christopher Hicks stated that he has been appointed to a leadership position with the National District Attorneys Association, and that the Association would be a good resource for the Advisory Council. Hicks also stated that the Prosecutors Center for Excellence has substantial resources for use by the Advisory Council.*

15. **Public Comment.**

Discussion Only. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up Public comment shall be limited to five (5) minutes per person. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item, until scheduled on the agenda of a future meeting for possible action.

- *No public comment was offered.*

16. **Adjournment.**

- *Christopher Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting. Wes Duncan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*
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In accordance with NRS 241.020, this agenda was posted on or before July 20, 2023 online at [https://ag.nv.gov/Hot\\_Topics/Prosecuting\\_Attorneys\\_Council/](https://ag.nv.gov/Hot_Topics/Prosecuting_Attorneys_Council/) and <https://notice.nv.gov/> and the following locations:

- Office of the Attorney General, 100 N. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701
- Office of the Attorney General, 5420 Kietzke Lane, Suite 202, Reno, NV 89511
- Office of the Attorney General, Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89101

Meeting materials may be requested from Michael K. Morton, Special Assistant Attorney General, at (775) 684-1237 or [mkmorton@ag.nv.gov](mailto:mkmorton@ag.nv.gov), or obtained from the Office of the Attorney General at any of the locations listed above.