



Mothers Against Drunk Driving
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Before the Criminal Justice Commission

October 11, 2019

In Support of the Appointment of the Chief State's Attorney

My name is Michelle Lettieri, Director of Victim Services for MADD CT. I would like to thank Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Andrew J. McDonald, Chair of the Commission, and commission members Superior Court Judge Melanie L. Cradle, Attorneys Robert M. Berke, Reginald Dwayne Betts, Scott J. Murphy and Moy N. Ogilvie for the opportunity to comment on the appointment of the next Chief State's Attorney.

On October 20, 1993, my mother Julia Coppola, was killed by an underage drunk driver; my sister Paula and I were critically injured. The criminal justice system, under the leadership of a committed, knowledgeable and caring State's Attorney, worked continually to support my family as we struggled to understand our rights as survivors within the court system.

It is imperative to MADD CT that the successor to the position of the Chief State's Attorney continue to support and advocate for the rights of all survivors of alcohol-related crashes. Additionally, it is important that each of the state's 13 Judicial District State's Attorneys respect and maintain the standards expected to uphold the constitutional rights for crime victims as expected by the head of the Division of Criminal Justice and the state of Connecticut.

Thank you.