

Audit of Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office

Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice Interim Committee

September 16, 2026

Audit Recommendations

- ▶ **OLAG Recommendations 1.1, 1.2:** DAO should expand and implement policies in the screening handbook and train staff on the policies. Sampling of screening decisions should ensure filings and declinations are consistent with office practices and policies.
- ▶ **Initial Response Summary:** We agree. Screening leadership and executive leadership have continued to develop and implement policies that are discussed regularly to ensure consistency. We regularly sample cases to ensure compliance.
- ▶ **June 12, 2026 Follow-up Responses:** Clear policies, training, and consistent screening practices promote transparency, accountability, and fairness in the screening process. Consistent with these values, the DAO updated its screening handbook to further clarify filing requirements, screening priorities, and procedures for handling declinations, including requiring prosecutors to articulate the specific basis for a declination. Sampling cases remains ongoing.
- ▶ **STATUS: Fully Implemented.**

Audit Recommendations

- ▶ **OLAG Recommendations 1.3, 1.4:** More clearly define admission criteria for alternative-to-incarceration and diversion programs and improve tracking.
- ▶ **Initial Response Summary:** We distinguished between treatment courts and internal, pre-filing diversion program. Treatment court programs are not controlled by the DAO. We agree with the recommendations for diversion programs.
- ▶ **June 12, 2026 Follow-Up Response:** DAO Treatment Court Supervisor has reviewed several months' worth of past screening decisions and increased monitoring of current screening results to ensure fidelity to admission criteria and to clarify/educate staff where needed.
- ▶ **Sept. 16, 2026 Follow-Up Response:** The DAO hired a data analyst to process data regarding office operations including diversion programs and treatment courts.
- ▶ **STATUS: Substantially Implemented.**

Audit Recommendations

- ▶ **OLAG Recommendations 2.1, 2.2, 2.3:** Establish policies and standards for adequate notes and documentation of plea offers in each case and review those resolutions to connect outputs and outcomes through measurement and reporting practices.
- ▶ **Initial Response Summary:** We agree and have enhanced our policies requiring documentation and explanation.
- ▶ **June 12, 2026 Follow-Up Response:** Before and during the audit response period, leadership focused on the quality of case notes, plea documentation, offer tracking, and the need for contemporaneous eProsecutor entries that explain the cases' progression and basis for case decisions. That work has now developed into regular internal audits, follow-up with assigned prosecutors when documentation is missing or unclear and reporting to help leadership identify trends and outliers.
- ▶ **Sept. 16, 2026 Follow-Up Response:** The DAO hired a data analyst to process data regarding office operations including the outcomes of case resolutions.
- ▶ **STATUS: Fully Implemented.**

Audit Recommendations

- ▶ **OLAG Recommendations 3.1, 3.2:** Establishing and publishing clear performance metrics to evaluate the office's effectiveness and establish a performance manager role.
- ▶ **Initial Response Summary:** We agree: performance metrics promote transparency; it's a challenge in an office employing more than 100 prosecutors and screening more than 20,000 cases annually. More critically, quantitative metrics that measure performance do not fully capture the myriad aspects of criminal prosecution.
- ▶ **June 12, 2026 Follow-Up Response:** Nevertheless, since implementing eProsecutor in 2022 the DAO has effectively tracked many data points that constitute performance metrics the DAO uses to evaluate the office's effectiveness. Also, working closely with Salt Lake County IT employees and specialists, the DAO created a public-facing dashboard that went live on December 9, 2025, and which for the last six months has published daily case intake and screening/filing statistics.
- ▶ **Sept. 16, 2026 Follow-Up Response:** The DAO hired a data analyst to process data regarding case statistics and outcomes. The dashboard is being significantly expanded at present.
- ▶ **STATUS: Fully implemented and ongoing.**