

## August, 2011 Grand Jury Report

We, the members of the July-August, 2011, Christian County Grand Jury would first of all like to express our sincere appreciation to the Christian County Commonwealth's Attorney Lynn Pryor and her staff for the hard work they do. Their job is a never-ending task that not all citizens can truly appreciate. We will never know all that it takes to do their jobs, as well as not all citizens will understand the reasoning behind outcomes of cases. We are just thankful to have had the opportunity to see but a small part of their daily jobs.

We would also like to thank the Judges, Court Clerks, local law enforcement, and everyone else involved in the criminal justice system for all they do as well. Alongside Lynn and staff, your jobs are greatly under appreciated!

While in the beginning our term as Grand Jurists appeared somewhat long, the weeks passed quickly. We all looked forward to meeting with not only Lynn and some of her staff, but the other jurists over fresh brewed (somewhat strong) coffee and really, yummy Whistle Stop doughnuts. And we have made some friendships along the way.

We all learned that we have come from various walks of life, with various life experiences, as well as occupations.....from school teachers, to dispatchers, to gas station clerks, to law secretaries, to those first hand in law enforcement. The panel was well enlightened to say the least!

We had quite a variety of cases brought before us ranging from drug charges to thefts to murder. And we had the great opportunity to meet with of the local several police officers, as well as those officers 'behind the scenes'. We have come to see just a small part of what an investigation entails from the initial phone call/complaint up to the actual Court proceeding. Some cases brought before us have been real eye openers!

One issue that was discussed and caught our attention, concerned a new law that Lynn Pryor and supporters are attempting to get passed. This is a 'get tough' on gang members and/or repeat violent offender's law. While incarceration works for some, and these individuals 'learn the errors of their ways' so to speak, there are some individuals residing in our communities- among our family members and our children- who seem like they have a revolving ticket to the county jail and prisons. There are those who commit violent crimes, serve a short period of time incarcerated, and are then released back into the community - time and time again. We agree with Lynn that these certain individuals deserve to remain incarcerated, and quit wasting the time and money of the Courts, law enforcement, and law-abiding citizens. We all hope to see this law passed in the very near future.

This has truly been a great experience for us all to have served on the Grand Jury and we would not trade this experience for anything. We, the members of the August, 2011, Christian County Grand Jury thank you!

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CHRISTIAN COUNTY GRAND JURY