

Christian County Grand Jury Report September-October 2011

This report is presented at the conclusion of the service of the September-October 2011 Christian County Grand Jury. It is made with the purpose of communicating our thoughts on the crime, law enforcement agencies and legal process in Christian County.

As grand jurors we have seen the gamut of criminal cases presented. However, without fail, each week the cases have been particularly heavy with drug related charges. While the drug activity is a major problem in Christian County, drug crimes and many other felonious crimes we have seen appear to be gang related. Another constant in cases presented during our term has been crimes against children, particularly sexual abuse crimes. This has been surprising, informative and concerning for us as jurors.

However, while the experience of grand jurors in itself can be disheartening, we can also say that we are encouraged by what we have seen and heard from those entrusted to enforce the law. We have seen professionalism from every law enforcement official who presented a case before us during our term. We also were impressed with cooperation between the various law enforcement agencies serving in Christian County. Lynn Pryor, Christian County Commonwealth's Attorney, and her staff did an outstanding job preparing the cases and informing us of the pertinent laws as we reviewed each case.

Probably the brightest spot of our jury service was learning of the Pennyrile Children's Advocacy Center. It is an asset to our community and is a collaborative effort of our local officials, law enforcement and the medical community. We commend all involved for their efforts on behalf of the children.

We view our service as grand jurors as a privilege and our civic duty. On that note, we encourage legislators to increase jury pay to an amount that speaks to the seriousness of the duty that is required of jurors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Foreman

October 28, 2011