

## **Grand Jury Report March-April 2010**

- The Christian County Grand Jury of March - April 2010, would first like to express our appreciation and sincere thanks to Commonwealth's Attorney Lynn Pryor and her staff for their professionalism and leadership. Ms. Pryor and her staff did an excellent job at helping us understand the law and how it applied to the cases that were presented. Grand Jury members appreciated the experience and knowledge gained from Ms. Pryor and her staff regarding the law and the criminal justice process. We would also like to thank Judge Atkins for his support.
- The members of the Grand Jury would like to express our gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to the members of law enforcement for their dedication and service to our community. Law enforcement officers risk their lives in order to protect and serve the citizens of Christian County. Our county is protected by some of the most dedicated and hardest working law enforcement officers and we applaud their commitment and sacrifice in their ongoing duty to keep our community safe.
- The members of the Grand Jury requested to see the "Gang Presentation" given by Deputy Scott Noisworthy. We were shocked to learn the level of gang activity in our community. As citizens, we are concerned that the gang issues and unlawful activity will increase without officers specializing in this area.
- Throughout our term on the Grand Jury we were given the opportunity to hear and deliberate on a variety of criminal cases involving DUI, fraud, theft, drugs, home burglaries, rape and murder. It was truly shocking to see the amount of criminal activity in Christian County. During our term we heard numerous cases which involved repeat offenders. We'd like to encourage lawmakers to review sentencing guidelines and consider increasing penalties and time served for repeat offenders. The current system and punishment doesn't seem to deter criminal activity. Jail and/or prison doesn't seem like a place criminals fear going to and/or returning to. Jail should not be pleasurable for inmates (playing games, gambling, lifting weights, watching movies etc...) it should be a time of punishment and rehabilitation for the crimes which were committed.
- We would like to recommend that the Juror pay of \$ 12.50 per day be increased to meet the cost of living standards for 2010. The juror pay has been the same amount for decades. Minimum wage pay continues to increase over time to meet the increase in cost of living changes, so why not do the same for juror pay? Jury service is an extremely important aspect of our criminal justice system, so it only makes sense that lawmakers should consider increasing juror pay to meet the increase cost of living. Increasing juror pay would encourage our citizens to carry out their jury duty when selected.
- In conclusion, we would like to express what a privilege and eye opening educational experience this was for us to have had the opportunity to serve on the Christian County Grand Jury. We are thankful to have had the experience and strongly encourage others to serve when given the opportunity.

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FOREPERSON

March - April 2010 Grand Jury