



CHRISTIAN COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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Christian County Commission
100 W. Church, Room 100
Ozark, MO 65721

Re: 2011 Annual Report of Prosecuting Attorney
HAND-DELIVERY

Dear Commissioners:

Attached please find the Christian County Prosecuting Attorney's Office annual report as is required by §56.095 of the Missouri Revised Statutes . While §56.095 requires only a reporting of the felony and misdemeanor charges prosecuted during the reporting period, we have chosen to provide a more detailed picture of the work accomplished this reporting year which is December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2011.

Below are some highlights of the achievements of the office this year.

1. We have successfully implemented a fileless system.
2. As you can see from the attached report we have reviewed more cases this year than law enforcement agencies referred to our office for review. What this represents is that our office has addressed the backlog of referrals that existed as of January 1, 2011.
3. In addition, at this point it is our practice that a referral is reviewed by a prosecutor within 7 days of it being received by our office.
4. We have worked together with the Court, the Circuit Clerk's Office and the Public Defender's Office to utilize the polycom system in the courtrooms. This allows defendants currently serving sentences in the department of corrections to plead guilty or admit probation violations via video versus transporting the prisoner from the department of corrections to the Christian County jail.
5. Donovan Dobbs and Lacie Burk who handle the tax cases have collected \$115,992.64 in taxes. From the information available this is the largest amount collected by this office.

6. We have applied for and been awarded two more years of grant funding for one of our victim advocate positions.
7. Without the expense or stress of a trial the following cases were disposed of through a plea. *State v. Timothy Kemner* in case #10CT-CR00105 pled guilty to Forcible Sodomy on 3/4/2011 and subsequently received a life sentence. Within seven months of COMET finding an operating meth lab, three of the offenders pled guilty in *State v. Billy Price*, 11CT-CR00497-01 to a 15 year sentence in the Department of Corrections, *State v. Dennis Walker*, 11CT-CR00495-01 to a 15 year sentence in the Department of Corrections, and *State v. Jack Guerin*, 11CT-CR00496-01 to a 12 year sentence in the Department of Corrections.
8. Our prosecutor's office has very capable attorneys whose abilities and achievements have been recognized and sought out in ways such as three of us being invited to present at statewide trainings, one of us being nominated and following a selective process being invited to attend a national training offered by the secret service, one of us has being selected by the Missouri Bar to participate in its Leadership Academy and one of us sitting on a committee working to implement JIS, the court's system for tracking cases, paperless initiative. This is not an exhaustive list but illustrates the quality of prosecutors in this office.

It is noteworthy that we have done this with a 6% reduction in budget. After applying the grant reimbursements, we are on track to have spent from the general revenue fund over 6% less than was budgeted or spent by this office in 2010.

Some of the challenges our office will face in 2012 are:

1. A continued decline in the bad check referrals. As you can see we received only 38% of the number of bad check referrals that were received in 2010 or in other words a reduction of 62%. This is a very concerning and continuing trend that makes clear bad check collection will not be a stable and consistent source of revenue for the P.A. office in the future. While this is a very grim statistic the positive is that while the referrals were down 62%, our office still collected 65% of the amount of money collected on behalf of victims the year before or in other words the amount of checks collected on behalf of victims was only down 35%. We collected 63% of the amount of P.A. fees as had been collected the year before or in other words is down 37% from the previous year.
2. In 2011, we reduced the investigator from 32 to 24 hours per week, at the end of 2011 the investigator retired and due to budget constraints we will forgo an investigator in 2012. Additionally, three employees will reduce their work hours, the total reduction will be 26 hours per week or approximately 1,300 work hours for the year. This work hour reduction combined with not filling the investigator position will result in this office losing 2,500 work hours in 2012.

In 2012, we will continue in our mission to seek and serve justice by:

1. Continuing to improve the utilization of the case management system.
2. Due to upgrades in our technology we will implement bate stamping for all discovery and a reliable redaction tool. The bate stamping tool will precisely document the discovery a defendant has received. This helps ensure a fair trial and reduces the likelihood of delays in a case proceeding to trial or plea. The redaction tool will allow us to better protect to the extent allowable by law the private information of victims and witnesses.
3. Continuing to seek and apply for grants focusing on finding funding for technology and staff.
4. Continuing to participate in statewide efforts to improve our criminal justice system such as the E-ticketing and criminal exchange initiative.
5. Continue to work for ways to effective and efficiently prosecute crimes. Frequently justice delayed can equate to justice denied, with that in mind our goal is to reduce our seven day window of review to same day review.

This has been a transition year in the Prosecutor's Office and it has been a year filled with accomplishments some small and some very large like going fileless. I believe that is a credit to the staff and each one's commitment and understanding of the privilege and responsibility we have to the public safety of the citizens of Christian County.

We look forward to seeking and serving justice in 2012.

Sincerely,

Amy J. Fite
Prosecuting Attorney