

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2010

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Cole County Grand Jury Releases Report of its July-December 2009 Term

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI (February 1, 2010) – The Grand Jury of Cole County, Missouri, recently released the report of its July-December 2009 Term. One hundred seventy-eight (178) indictments, with 284 counts, were returned against defendants, and over 230 persons appeared before the grand jury, either under subpoena or on a voluntary basis, to testify and answer questions asked by the grand jurors.

Of the 284 counts for which indictments were issued, seven (7) were for homicides, 23 were for offenses against the person, four (4) were for offenses against the family, eight (8) were for sexual offenses, 122 were for offenses related to controlled substances, 36 were for stealing and related offenses, 19 were for offenses affecting public safety, 12 were for offenses against the administration of justice, and 21 were for miscellaneous offenses.

“Cole County’s grand jurors actually only hear a small number of the cases that are handled by the prosecutor’s office,” said Prosecuting Attorney Mark Richardson. “My job is to present serious individual felony cases to the grand jury, which listens to testimony and considers evidence before determining whether there is probable cause that a particular defendant committed a particular crime.”

Cole County is one of the few counties in the state of Missouri to use the grand jury. The full report, which also contains information and history on grand juries, can be viewed on the Cole County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office website, <http://www.colecopa.com>.