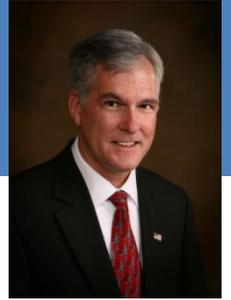


OFFICE OF THE COLE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

MARK A. RICHARDSON, PROSECUTOR

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cole County Prosecutor Mark Richardson Issues 2013 Grand Jury Report

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI (January 15, 2014) – Cole County Prosecutor Mark Richardson issued a report of action taken by the Cole County grand jury in 2013. The grand jury is empanelled for six month periods to review evidence in felony criminal cases. “The grand jury is an integral point in our criminal justice process. It allows the citizens of Cole County to be involved in providing expediency in the resolution of criminal cases and affords protection to sensitive witnesses or victims. I am proud of the hard work our grand jurors put into these cases and grateful for their service,” said Richardson.

The grand jury is comprised of a selection of Cole County Citizens selected from the county jury pool. They meet every few weeks and are presented evidence in the form of testimony, documents, pictures and videos. At the conclusion of evidence in a particular case, the grand jury deliberates and makes the determination as to whether or not probable cause exists for the case to continue.

If they find probable cause that a felony has been committed and that the defendant in question is likely to have committed the offense, they issue what is called a True Bill and the matter is transferred to the Circuit Court of Cole County for disposition. Resolution of a criminal case after that point may include a jury trial, guilty plea or deferral in one of the alternative treatment courts.

In 2013, there were two grand jury terms that spanned from January to June and July to December. In total, the grand jury heard from more than 500 witnesses. They considered 365 cases and returned 354 True Bills. Cases that were True Billed have been or continue to be prosecuted in Circuit Court by the Cole County Prosecuting Attorney and Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys.