

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF GORDON

The Gordon County Superior Court convened on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., with the Honorable D. Scott Smith, Judge, Superior Courts, Cherokee Circuit presiding. After Court was called to order, the following persons were selected as Grand Jurors for the December Term, 2017.

FILED
Clerk Superior Ct., Gordon County

1. JESSICA GRATER, FOREPERSON

FEB 12 2018

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| 2. ALLIE E. WOFFORD | 13. DERRICK L. MCCLINIC |
| 3. SHANE L. SUTTON | 14. DEBBIE M. LANG |
| 4. H. DOUGLAS GOSNELL | 15. DEBORAH HARRIS |
| 5. JOHN DIXON | 16. ANDREA G. BRUMLOW |
| 6. DAWN B. PHILLIPS | 17. FRANKIE S. HAYGOOD |
| 7. SHERRI L. HILL | 18. BROOKE S. ROBERTS |
| 8. SAMUEL A. AGEE | 19. SHIRLEY Y. BUFFINGTON |
| 9. MICHAEL HART | 20. SONYA NIX |
| 10. AUBREY R. HOWARD | 21. DAVID A. GOMEZ |
| 11. JESSICA GOSWICK | 22. MICHAEL E. HOLBROOK |
| 12. ANTHONY BANKS | 23. BARBARA C. WILLIS |

Grant Walraven
Clerk

The following persons were elected to serve as officers for this Grand Jury:

- 1) JESSICA GRATER, FOREPERSON
- 2) ANDREA G. BRUMLOW, VICE-FOREPERSON
- 2) DEBBIE M. LANG, CLERK
- 4) DERRICK L. MCCLINIC, DOORPERSON
- 5) CLIFF ROBERTS, GRAND JURY BAILIFF

Judge D. Scott Smith charged and instructed the Grand Jury after District Attorney Rosemary Greene administered the statutory oath to both the Foreperson and then to all other members of this Grand Jury, as well as, the required oaths to this grand jury's bailiffs, and some of the traverse jury bailiffs for this term of court.

We thank District Attorney Rosemary Greene and her Assistant District Attorneys for their legal opinions and the whole staff for the assistance in the proceedings as to criminal cases presented to this Grand Jury. Also we commend our law enforcement personnel for the excellent job they do and also commend the officers who appeared before this body from all the different local agencies for their efficiency, appearance and professionalism. Finally, we thank our Bailiff, Mr. Cliff Roberts, for his service and courtesy to this body. We recommend that Mr. Roberts be paid an additional day's pay for his performance and all extra duties and services that he provided this body. We would like to thank Hon. Grant Walraven, Clerk of Court in providing breakfast, we appreciate his generosity.

1. We have examined all criminal cases presented by the District Attorney's Office and reported 47 True Bills and 3 No Bills.

2. In accordance with our statutory duties (O.C.G.A. § 36-1-7) on the first day of this term, this body received the written financial reports of the following County Officers, who also voluntarily appeared and reviewed each report, as follows:

- (1) Hon. Mitch Ralston, Sheriff of Gordon County along with Chief Deputy Robert Paris and Major Pat Bedford;
- (2) Hon. Scott Clements, Tax Commissioner;
- (3) Hon. John R. (Richie) Parker, Judge of Probate Court;
- (4) Hon. Grant Walraven, Clerk of Court; and
- (5) Mr. James Ledbetter, Administrator, Gordon County Government.

All financial reports have been examined and all are accepted as submitted. We appreciate and thank these officials for the job each is doing.

3. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 15-12-71(b)(1) and within the three (3) calendar years of the last periodic inspection in September, 2011, this Grand Jury has designated itself as the one to inspect and examine the offices and operations of the Clerk of Superior Court, Judge of Probate Court, the local division of this circuit's District Attorney's office and the County Administrative and Finance Department.

The Committee reports are adopted by the Grand Jury and submitted as part of these presentments as follows:

A. County Administrative and Finance Department:

The Grand Jury Committee assigned to the County Administrative Office consisted of the following members: David Gomez and Barbara Willis. The Committee reports that the County Administrative Office is a good clean facility with long term employees who possess institutional knowledge. The committee recommends County support SPLOST projects as funds and plans for buildings are proposed. Long range plans exist for Courthouse and Annex Building within proposed SPLOST project. We recommend part-time help to assist County Administrator Jim Ledbetter's work load.

The Committee assigned to the Finance Department were Andrea Brumlow and Debbie Lang. The Finance Department is also a well maintained facility with highly knowledgeable employees. We recommend they received updated computers. The budget was readily available at the office and on line for public viewing. A good fund balance exists but still recovering from 2008.

B. Judge of Probate:

The committee assigned to the Probate Judge consisted of John Nix, Michael Hart and Shane Sutton. The Committee finds that this office is understaffed, needs more space accordingly and updated computers, and replacement of ceiling tiles from water damage. The upcoming remodel for the Main Courthouse will hopefully eliminate the majority of these existing problems.

C. District Attorney:

The Grand Jury Committee assigned to the District Attorney's Office consisted of the following members: Dawn Phillips, Aubrey Howard and Anthony Banks.

The Committee reports that space allotted is utilized well but many offices are shared with limited space for all staff, especially during court preparation. Also, more space is needed for seating witnesses, jurors, and meetings with staff and attorneys. Security issues also exist regarding inmates. The upcoming 3rd floor addition for the Annex Building should eliminate the majority of these existing problems.

D. Clerk of Superior Court:

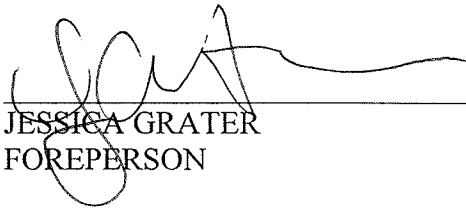
The Grand Jury Committee assigned to the Clerk of Superior Court consisted of the following members: Sherri Hill, Sonya Nix and Samuel Agee.

The committee recommends a fire-proof area for deeds, plats, etc. Also more space for this office has been recommended. The upcoming remodel will rectify the majority of these existing problems.

4. We authorize Jessica Grater our Foreperson to call this Grand Jury back into session any time during our appointed term, if she warrants it necessary.

5. We recommend these presentments be spread upon the minutes of the Court and be published in the legal organ of Gordon County.

This 12th day February, 2018.



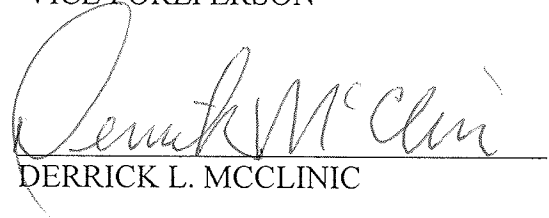
JESSICA GRATER
FOREPERSON



ANDREA G. BRUMLOW
VICE FOREPERSON



DEBBIE M. LANG
CLERK



DERRICK L. MCCLINIC

ORDER OF THE COURT

Presented in open court, let the same be filed and spread upon the minutes of the Court.
Let these presentments be published in the legal organ of Gordon County.

This 12th day of February, 2018



HON. SUZANNE H. SMITH
JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURTS
CHEROKEE JUDICIAL CIRCUIT