

CLERK OF SUPERIOR, STATE
AND JUVENILE COURT
FILED FOR RECORD

2014 SEP 12 PM 12:14

LAINÉ C. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF RICHMOND COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

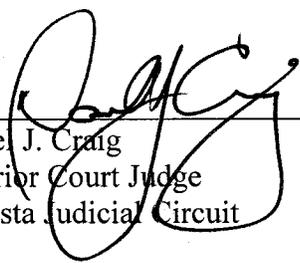
IN RE: GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT FOR THE JULY TERM 2014

The Grand Jury having returned the attached general presentment for the July Term 2014, and the same having been reviewed and accepted by the Court on September 12, 2014, it is now,

ORDERED that the said presentment shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court for Richmond County, and that it shall be published once in the *Augusta Chronicle*, the legal gazette for said County; and

FURTHER ORDERED that the said general presentment shall be posted by the Director of Information Technology on the Augusta-Richmond County website for public access through the Internet (World Wide Web).

It is so ORDERED this 12th day of September 2014.



Daniel J. Craig
Superior Court Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit

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ELAINE C. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

TO: The Honorable Daniel J. Craig
Judge, Superior Court

FROM: Richmond County Grand Jury
July Term 2014

DATE: September 12, 2014

RE: Grand Jury Presentment

We, the members of the Augusta-Richmond County Grand Jury for the July Term 2014, having been duly sworn by the Honorable J. Wade Padgett on the 24th day of July 2014, submit our presentment on the 12th day of September 2014, our last day as an official body of the Grand Jury.

To discharge our sworn duties, as prescribed by the laws of the State of Georgia, we met on seven (7) dates during our term and acted upon Bills of Indictments presented to us by the District Attorney's Office.

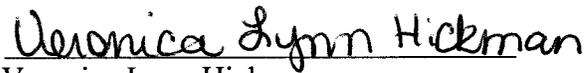
Sub-Committees were formed to inspect the Charles B. Webster Detention Center and Probate Court; reports are attached.

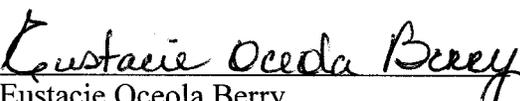
The Grand Jury respectfully submits this presentment on the 12th day of September 2014 and requests that it is published.


Robert L. Brown, Foreperson

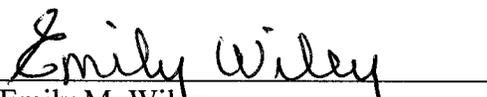
Annie Dennis-King, Asst. Foreperson

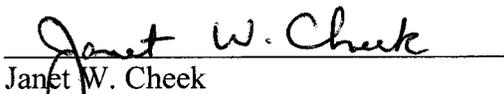
Barbara B. Stewart, Secretary

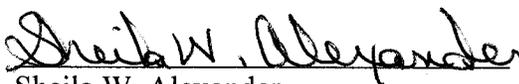

Veronica Lynn Hickman

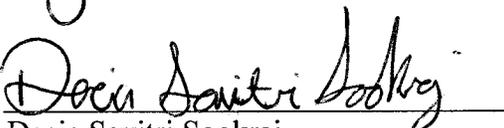

Eustacie Oceola Berry


Gary B. Roane, Sr.


Emily M. Wiley


Janet W. Cheek


Sheila W. Alexander


Dacia Savitri Sookraj

Moses Isiah Johnson

Paul Roberts-Lofton

Latoya L. Stewart

Ricky Durrell Weaver
Ricky Durrell Weaver

Bobby L. Holland
Bobby L. Holland

Ok Cha Chon Crawford
Ok Cha Chon Crawford

Delio Esdra Perez
Delio Esdra Perez

Josephine D. Rogers
Josephine D. Rogers

Ronnie Clark
Ronnie Clark

Patricia H. Whitlock
Patricia H. Whitlock

Marietta Chaneyfield
Marietta Chaneyfield

Sue Martin
Sue Martin

Shirley Ann Odell
Shirley Ann Odell

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JULY TERM 2014 GRAND JURY
REPORT ON THE CHARLES B. WEBSTER DETENTION CENTER**

2014 SEP 12 PM 12:15
ELAINE C. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

On September 2nd, 2014, a Sub-Committee consisting of four members of the July Term 2014 Grand Jury visited the Charles B. Webster Detention Center around noon. Captain Bill Reeves and Captain Sheila White greeted us upon our arrival and thereafter we were asked to leave our belongings at the desk and subsequently given visitor badges.

After introductions, we were escorted to the staff dining room. Lunch consisted of fried chicken, baked chicken, hotdogs, a salad bar, mashed potatoes, potato salad, bread pudding and a variety of pies; we were also shown to an ice cream freezer. Our beverage choices included sweet and unsweet tea and lemonade.

On our visit to the Detention Center, there were approximately 930 to 940 inmates; of this number, roughly 125 were females. The Charles B. Webster Detention Center has a capacity of approximately 1,056 inmates.

Each cell houses two to four inmates. A very strict security system is followed. One example we learned from Captain Reeves is how lunch is served. This meal is brought around to the cells rather than inmates dining open-cafeteria style in an effort to help alleviate fights and possible gang connections.

We toured both the male and female pods. The male pod was newer than the female pod and the latter is currently in the process of change. We were told inmates in striped clothing were considered violent. While on our tour of the male pod, we observed an inmate who was on suicide watch. Not only are these inmates placed in a different cell with less amenities, they are also in black suits.

In the female pod, all inmates were in striped clothing. We learned they are currently in the process of changing from orange-colored to pink-colored suits. Violent females will be in stripes and non-violent in solid pink.

The Charles B. Webster Detention Center is a maximum-security facility. When entering from one area to the next, doors are locked and unlocked electronically from remote stations. Cameras are visible throughout.

The final stop on our tour was the Visitor Center. In a separate building, visitations are done booth style via video conference. Inmates are allotted 30-minute visits and visitations end at 2:00 p.m.

We toured the 138,000 square-foot facility which consists of a kitchen, exercise yard, visitation room, a laundry, medical facility, and many more activity areas. Overall, the Charles B. Webster Detention Center is a well-maintained facility under maximum-security.

Respectfully submitted by the
Sub-Committee Members

**SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE JULY TERM 2014 GRAND JURY
REPORT ON PROBATE COURT**

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On Tuesday, August 5, 2014, a Sub-Committee of the July 2014 Term of the Richmond County Grand Jury conducted an inspection of Probate Court, located in the Judicial Center, Suite 1000, 735 James Brown Blvd., Augusta, Georgia.

FLAINE C. JOHNSON, CLERK
RICHMOND COUNTY, GA.

Sub-Committee Members assembled in the Probate Courtroom to meet with the Honorable Judge Harry B. James III who explained the duties and responsibilities of the Judge and Probate Court. In a very friendly and organized manner, Judge James gave us insight into the duties of the court and entertained our questions with good humor and patience.

Judge James distributed a copy of the "Georgia Code on Jurisdiction, Power and Duties of Probate Courts" which reads as follows:

- (A) Probate courts have authority, unless otherwise provided by law, to exercise original, exclusive and general jurisdiction of the following subject matters:
- 1) The probate of wills;
 - 2) The granting of letters testamentary and of administration and the repeal or revocation of the same;
 - 3) All controversies in relation to the right of executorship or administration;
 - 4) The sale and disposition of the property belonging to, and the distribution of, deceased persons' estates;
 - 5) The appointment and removal of guardians of minors, conservators of minors, guardians of incapacitated adults and conservators of incapacitated adults and persons who are incompetent because of mental illness or mental retardation;
 - 6) All controversies as to the right of guardianship and conservatorship, except that the probate court shall not be an appropriate court to take action under Code Section 19-7-4;
 - 7) The auditing and passing of returns of all executors, administrators, guardians or property, conservators and guardians;
 - 8) The discharge of former sureties and the requiring of new sureties from administrators, guardians or property, conservators and guardians;
 - 9) All matters as may be conferred on them by Chapter 3 of Title 37;
 - 10) All other matters and things as appertain or related to estates of deceased persons and to persons who are incompetent because of mental illness or mental retardation; and
 - 11) All matters as may be conferred on them by the Constitution and law.
- (B) In addition to the jurisdiction granted in subsection (A) of this Code Section and unless otherwise provided by law, the probate courts shall have the power to carry out the following duties as assigned by specific laws;
- 1) Perform county governmental administration duties;

- 2) Perform duties relating to elections;
- 3) Fill vacancies in public offices by appointment;
- 4) Administer oaths to public officers;
- 5) Accept, file, approve and record bonds of public officers;
- 6) Register and permit certain enterprises;
- 7) Issue marriage licenses;
- 8) Hear traffic cases;
- 9) Receive pleas of guilty and impose sentences in cases of violations of game and fish laws;
- 10) Hold criminal commitment hearings; and
- 11) Perform other such judicial and ministerial functions as may be provided by law.

Judge James then began our tour of Probate Court. His office, a conference room, storage areas and clerk's offices were included. We were introduced to Felicia Bray, Chief Clerk, who explained the filing system and documents shelved therein. Ms. Bray's explanation of the filing of documents was very clear and thorough and all questions were answered with graciousness.

The Probate Courtroom is rather small and, at times, a larger courtroom is needed; hence, the Judge must use one of the larger courtrooms upstairs. Judge James' office is located in the suite which is convenient for him and the public. The space for records is crowded and it is evident that more space is needed. The clerks are busy with desks loaded with current documents.

Sub-Committee Members were struck with the good nature and efficiency of the office. From the judge to the clerks, we found the office to be quite "user friendly."

Sub-Committee Members

Ok Cha Chon Crawford
Gary B. Roane, Sr.
Barbara B. Stewart