

Date: August 4, 2014
To: Judge Cynthia Munkittrick
From: Terry Trussell, Grand Jury Foreman
Re: Dixie County Grand Jury Meeting – 08/01/2014 – 1:30 PM

Your Honor, I'm afraid we have some very serious problems—

Just to refresh your memory, I would first like to review with you a very important Supreme Court case: US versus Williams, 1992.

Then I will explain in detail the dimensions of the problems we face and the best solution I can think of to remedy this ugly situation I believe Mr. Siegmeister has put us in.

I need to remind you that I'm under two oaths to our Constitution, which I take very seriously; and I trust this is a confidential discussion between us.

I. BACKGROUND

As Foreman, I have been frustrated in every effort to bring before the Jury a matter of the utmost urgency and concern, dealing with fraud and corruption within, and among, a number of our public offices.

Note: Because the information I have involves crimes also affecting surrounding counties, it is my duty to reach out to those jurisdictions. I directly contacted Levy and Gilchrist County Clerks of Court on or about July 28, requesting they give my contact information to the grand jury forepersons of their respective counties, and ask them to contact me on a matter of official business. I received no response from either County's Clerk or Grand Jury foreman.

From the Grand Jury Instructions - 4.10 - This grand jury has a duty to cooperate with any other grand jury investigations being conducted in this county or elsewhere in the state if the administration of justice requires it, including making reports of your investigation available to any subsequent grand jury of the county.

I am in possession of a complaint concerning a subject of which our State Attorney, Mr. Jeffrey Siegmeister has been aware for some time, yet has failed to act. It is my sworn duty as a member of the Grand Jury to make this matter known to my fellow Jurors so they may evaluate its validity and issue a True Bill, if they deem it appropriate.

Not being familiar with the process, I went to the Clerk of Court, Dana Johnson, on July 21, and requested she schedule a session of the Grand Jury (see attached, hand-delivered letter). I received no immediate response. The following day I returned to Ms. Johnson's office and inquired as to the status of my request. She informed me, instead of handling the arrangements within her office, she had forwarded the request to Mr. Siegmeister, and he would be calling me the next day (23rd).

Late in the afternoon of the 23rd, I received Mr. Siegmeister's call and he informed me he would notify the Jurors by mail of their need to appear at the first opportunity. I further suggested, in order to avoid wasting the Jurors' time and the county's money, it would be very important he include in his notice, a copy of the Jury Instructions, the Grand Jury Handbook, and the U.S. Constitution, along with a simple instruction to please read and understand the documents with a reminder the proceedings must remain secret. I emailed him a letter to be included with the above items (see attached).

Mr. Siegmeister sent out a notification along with the Jury Instructions and Handbook (omitting the Constitution and my instructions). Ms. Johnson's office also mailed out an official Notice to the Jurors.

On July 30, I went to Ms. Johnson's office and requested several items:

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- To see the room in which we would be meeting
- The use of copier services for Jury materials
- Determine if there was a budget (as Handbook indicates)
- List of Jurors' names and contact info
- Inquire about the procedure if less than a quorum

After viewing the courtroom, I voiced my concern over the recording equipment and the potential conflict with requiring the proceedings be secret. She assured me no other room in the courthouse could hold twenty people, but since I was still concerned, she committed to have the microphones turned off.

Ms. Johnson told me there is no budget for the Grand Jury; I could use the copier in the Commissioner's office; and she would get me a copy of the Juror's list. She also added she wasn't aware of any procedure for dealing with less than a quorum, referring me to the State Attorney for information.

On the 31st, I had still not received the Jury list and I inquired again, receiving nothing but excuses and no results.

On the morning of the Grand Jury session, I arrived at the Courthouse and began preparations for the meeting. Ms. Johnson was not in her office on Friday, but I was told I could reach her on her cell if I had any concerns. I told the clerk it was imperative I have the Jury list so I would know who was supposed to be there and verify identities. No one seemed to know what was going on. I was advised to wait for Mr. Siegmeister. At 12:30, Mr. Siegmeister walked out of Sheriff's office as I was passing by and told me he would be with me in a minute. I walked to Courtroom A and he was already there with a Deputy talking with him about the microphones and setting up the courtroom for the session. I noticed the microphones were still turned on.

I asked Mr. Siegmeister for the Jury list and he told me it would be inappropriate for me to know the Juror's names. I asked how I was supposed to know who was present and he told me, he would handle it. He said he was concerned whether we would have a quorum because he knew three Jurors would definitely not be able to attend. I asked him how he knew, he said, "Because I called them all."

He also told me my Vice-Foreman and Clerk would not be there. I told him I wasn't aware I even had a clerk, as it is stipulated in the Instructions, the clerk is to be appointed as a first matter of business in the initial meeting. He said he only knew I had a Clerk who wouldn't be there.

A woman walked in the courtroom and greeted Mr. Siegmeister. I asked who she was. He replied, she was his court reporter; he had worked with her for 20 years, and he vouched for her. I told him according to the instructions, the decision to have a reporter was up to the jury. He stated this was his jury and he had made the decision. I responded, this was the People's jury and it is independent of the court and the state attorney. He agreed it was independent, but he was statutorily responsible for it. I asked if he was in charge, why was I there. His response, "I wonder that, myself."

As the jurors came into the courtroom, State Attorney, Jeff Siegmeister greeted them and when a quorum was filled, he directed them to the jury box, placing them in the context of a regular court setting. I was uncomfortable with the seating arrangement as it established a mindset contrary to a more casual forum for open discussion. After a couple of opening remarks, and notifying them the court-appointed vice-foreman and clerk were absent, he turned the proceeding over to me. I asked him if the jury could be left alone to proceed with the matters at hand. He told me firmly, he, his assistant, bailiff, and court reporter were required to be present and he was not leaving. He further showed me from the grand jury instructions:

4.3 - The state attorney (or the statewide prosecutor) and assistants are your legal advisers on all matters that come before the grand jury. It is your duty to give weight and careful consideration to this advice. The

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state attorney (or the statewide prosecutor) or an assistant shall be present at all times when you are making investigations, and will interrogate the witnesses and administer the necessary oaths.

I pointed out, there were no investigations being done at this time, no witnesses to be interrogated, and no oaths to be administered. He refused to leave.

There was a bailiff present as the jury took their seats in the jury box, the court reporter took her seat at the table and began taking short-hand notes; a voice recorder on the table beside her. Four armed deputies stood outside the door to the courtroom, in view of the jurors. As a complete nonsequitur, Mr. Siegmeister made the comment before the jury, I had even tried to contact juries in neighboring counties and asked me to remind him which counties they were. I told him, Levy and Gilchrist. His query was unexpected and being disconnected from the subject presented, it seemed to be made in an attempt to throw me off subject, and to let me know he was in control. I suddenly realized, this was not a Grand Jury, but a sham orchestrated by Mr. Siegmeister.

As I began my presentation, I noticed the jurors' eyes kept shifting from me to Mr. Siegmeister. Instead of focusing on what I was saying, they were being distracted by him. At one point when the jury turned to look at him, I quickly glanced his way, and saw him turn his head and roll his eyes. I realized he was assuming complete control of the jury as he stood behind me. At another point, I caught him making a hand gesture, as though prompting the proceedings to move faster. One juror was obviously responding to Mr. Siegmeister's antics and began heckling me while I spoke, demanding I proceed with the matter at hand and bring the witnesses to testify. I explained, they needed to have a basic understanding of the issue at hand, that I had prepared some documents to give them and be given proper context before the case would make sense. Plus, because the State Attorney had failed to give them the information I requested, they were not equipped to receive the case presentation.

Additionally, within the limited timeframe allowed by Mr. Siegmeister, I was prevented from even providing the background and foundation of the matter for them to be properly equipped to understand the presentation with necessary perspective. One Juror voiced her concern the subject matter of the case might be 'political'. Several of the Jurors assumed an antagonistic attitude, heckling or challenging my points, and talking among themselves as I spoke; generally giving my comments little attention or credence. I began to understand how well Mr. Siegmeister had 'prepared' them for the meeting.

I handed out the booklet containing information requisite to the case. Mr. Heckler leafed quickly through the booklet, then tossed the booklet from the jury box, back on the table. Other jury members also stated they didn't need to know what was in the booklet, insisting I just tell them who did what; insisting they were capable of figuring it out for themselves. I know from the complexity of the case, no one can judge the validity of the allegations without a basic understanding of key principles and facts. The jury refused to accept any suggestion they might not be so equipped, while admitting ignorance of the simplest elements of related matters.

I explained we did not have the time, nor a basis of understanding, and asked them to allow me to give the context of the documents they received. They refused. I persisted, since we were given limited time on Friday, beginning at 1:30 and required to leave by 5 PM, we hadn't enough time to present the case and have any time left for deliberation. But the heckler persisted I tell the jury what the case concerned and the jury agreed I should proceed with the case.

Although I was not prepared, I began by asking the jury if any of them were familiar with a key, well-publicized element in the case. Not a single hand was raised. I repeated the subject matter of the case before us, and one woman raised her hand stating she had seen something on TV news concerning the subject, and her grandson had mentioned it, once, but she couldn't tell me anything about the subject. I

told them the case involved allegations of, among other violations, bribery of local officials to provide benefit to others for instituting certain policies. Mr. Heckler demanded to know who was involved in the bribery, to which I responded by listing various state and county officials. The jury asked Mr. Siegmeister the status of subject program. He replied, he thought the program was very bad, many states were prohibiting it, and it was damaging our People, but he didn't believe it was illegal.

One juror stated he didn't think it was possible for a little county grand jury to even consider a case of such stature, to which Siegmeister responded the case was outside his jurisdiction and he couldn't even prosecute it. Several members of the jury agreed, if we couldn't do anything about the issue at hand, we were wasting our time. All this, before they had any details of the complaint.

Mr. Siegmeister turned to me before the jury and said, "I told you they'd revolt if you didn't give them all the information right away." I asked the jury if they would consider giving me the opportunity of presenting the case as originally planned, before the distractions and obfuscations by Mr. Siegmeister. Some of them reluctantly consented to meet again and the rest finally relented. Mr. Siegmeister then suggested we meet again the following Friday. I countered by persisting we could meet the next morning if we could have an open-ended timeframe to complete the process. Again, Mr. Siegmeister persisted a later date would best fit his schedule. The jury discussed the proposed arrangement and decided on the 14th of August. Mr. Siegmeister proposed to begin at 1:00 PM—again, not allowing ample time to complete the presentation and deliberation—further wasting the Jurors' time and the County's money. My input was neither solicited nor accepted.

After the jury left the courtroom, I approached Mr. Siegmeister, and told him I did not appreciate his manipulation of the jury. He denied he did anything other than follow the law—just doing his job. I told him, if he were doing his job, I would not have to be there. He then committed to me, if I could get a 12-vote for a True Bill, he would promise to prosecute the case. I told him I would hold him to his commitment.

Judge Munkittrick, in view of the preceding information, I offer the following for your consideration and action:

- The County Court Clerk's refusal to provide me a list of Jury Members put me in a position subservient to the State Attorney, leaving me without the tools essential to fulfilling my sworn duty.

4.2 - DUTIES OF THE CLERK. The clerk shall keep an attendance record of the grand jurors present and absent at each session; keep minutes of the proceedings at each session. The minutes shall reflect the subject matter of the proceeding and the names of the witnesses testifying in relation. The clerk shall record the aye and nay vote on each vote taken by the grand jury, but by number only and not by the names of the grand jurors. The clerk also shall sign all interim and final reports approved by the grand jury.

- Mr. Siegmeister allowed no opportunity to appoint a replacement clerk to fulfill the above requirement and there was no record who attended other than their 'Juror Request for Compensation'. Further, he prevented me from verifying the people who appeared for jury duty, were who they claimed to be by producing a photo ID—the minimum diligence needed to protect the sanctity of the process. Mr. Siegmeister told me I was not supposed to know the names of the people on the jury, because their names are not public information, and he didn't feel my knowing their names was necessary for me to do my job.
- Mr. Siegmeister prompting the jury behind my back was sophomoric, destructive, and well beneath even a minimum standard of professionalism.

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- His repeated and uninvited interruptions and comments during my presentation were unsolicited, distracting, and counterproductive. He wasted time and disrupted the proceedings.
- His unwarranted and unauthorized testifying about facts of the case, inserting his opinions, and giving his views about the how the law applies, was not helpful, confused the jury, and it undermined my position as Foreman—a public office at least equal to, and independent from his.
- His insistence the court reporter, the bailiff, and his assistant be present, along with four armed Sheriff's deputies loitering at the courtroom door, especially during highly-sensitive disclosures of critical information, was a reckless, distracting, and unnecessary threat to the secrecy of our case.
- His dominance of every step in the process compromised the Jury's function and my responsibility to manage the procedure.
- The County Clerk's lack of competence in matters related to how the Grand Jury must operate and how to provide for its needs, was an obstacle to our secrecy and efficiency. Her dependence on Mr. Siegmeister for every minor decision was frustrating and impeded progress.
- Mr. Siegmeister had repeated conversations outside the body of the Grand Jury with Jury Members:
 - He admitted to having phone conversations with each of the Jury Members, where he obtained information from them (which he refused to share with me), and gave them 'special information and instruction' in preparation for the meeting.
 - He usurped my authority by excusing Members from attending, without my knowledge.
 - He had a conversation with one of the female Jurors outside the courthouse following the session, after which, the Juror came to me, asked for an additional copy of the handout, and took it back out to him. I had specifically told him during the session, the documents were intended only for the Jury.
- Due to the irregularities and improprieties committed by Mr. Siegmeister in his obviously unprofessional, and certainly illicit administration of the August 1, proceedings, and as Foreman of this jury, I declare this session disqualified as a Grand Jury function, as the jury has been so tainted, therefore it and any enforcement of restrictions and authorities upon it are null and void. The only way I can continue with this effort to serve justice, the People, and Plaintiffs in the case before us is to form a new jury and conduct it in strict compliance with Supreme Court Justice, Antonin Scalia's admonishments in *US v Williams*, 1992, regardless what the Statutes may stipulate.

In summary, your Honor, I have the utmost respect for the American concept and system of justice. I can say, as one of the People, a Vietnam veteran, and having spent eight years working in criminal justice, I have never seen a greater perversion of our legal process, or subversion of the sovereignty of the American People. The People's Grand Jury stands at the pinnacle of our defenses as our first, last, and most powerful shield from tyrannical oppression by an illogical, unmerciful bureaucracy and its abuse of our legal system. This experience gives inexorable weight to my conclusion that the session Mr. Siegmeister subverted on Friday, August 1, 2014, could in no way be described as a Grand Jury:

1. Mr. Siegmeister violated the spirit, and every principle, of the Grand Jury concept as described in US v Williams.
2. The Jury was not permitted to function free of Mr. Siegmeister's control or influence at every step, contrary to the independent nature of the Grand Jury.
3. He sabotaged my role as Foreman, by directing the process; countering, and over-riding my decisions in the process, inserting his opinions, 'witnessing' to the subjects at hand, and 'preparing' the Jurors, a direct violation of the opinion stated in US v Williams.
4. He blocked access and communications between public officials (Grand Jury Foremen) in different counties and separate jurisdictions, over matters clearly outside his scope, responsibility, and authority.

The meeting could only be described as a charade by a runaway State Attorney.

Now, Your Honor, I have no clue how long we've been crushing the People's constitutionally-protected rights in Dixie County. I also don't know how many innocent people may have been convicted and either fined, jailed or sent to prison in abject violation of their rights protected by the fifth and seventh amendments in the Constitution.

Nor do I know how long this type of criminal behavior has been going on during your term of office but I am certain he did not just start last Friday. Now that this behavior has surfaced, Your Honor, it is our sworn duty to stop it and root out this criminal corruption immediately.

We do remember that it was not that long ago the FBI came into Dixie County, likewise to root out corruption. I believe we must now take corrective action promptly and comprehensively and not wait for further damage to the people of Dixie County. I for one frankly do not want outside authorities to become involved because they may dig deep and find more widespread problems. Frankly I love Dixie County and do not want to see any more damage than Mr. Siegmeister has already caused.

But I can tell you that there are two simple, yet compelling corrective actions that we must accomplish without delay. If we act promptly we can reduce the risks of further damage to Dixie County and its good People, and rectify the root causes of what has been unlawful activity within our judicial branch.

II. DAMAGES TO THE PEOPLE

Among the offenses committed by Mr. Siegmeister:

1. (a) Criminal Contempt of Due Process of Law.
2. (b) Obstruction of Justice and coercion or manipulation of others to do the same.
3. (c) Jury Tampering.
4. (d) Contempt of Court.
5. (e) Deprivation of Rights.

In violation of the Constitution, the Supreme Court's ruling in US vs. Williams, and our Grand Jury Instructions, the Grand Jury is required to operate in secret. To the contrary, Mr. Siegmeister:

1. per Grand Jury instructions, denied the Grand Jury the requirement to choose officers: clerk, vice foreman, and reporter.
2. unlawfully advised the Court Clerk for Dixie County Florida.
3. denied funds for necessary investigations.
4. denied me the security of knowing we have the Jurors as originally selected for this Grand Jury.
5. arranged the setting of the Grand Jury as if it is a petit jury, therefore creating an environment placing him as the apparent authority.
6. caused all of the jurors to refer to him for every statement made.
7. rolling his eyes and making hand gestures, undermined the independence of this Grand Jury.
8. Disparaged the Foreman before these Grand Jurors.

9. made remarks against the Foreman with calumnious intent.
10. argued against the Foreman in the presence of these jurors.
11. blocked access to other county grand jury Foremen, therefore blocking my duty to report crimes beyond Dixie County Borders.
12. tainted this jury to the extent it is permanently compromised.
13. effectively denied necessary information to the Jurors, necessary for the proper comprehension of the subject.
14. held himself as an expert witness by testifying before the Grand Jury instead of simply responding to specific inquiries.

III. CIRCUMSTANCES DEMAND

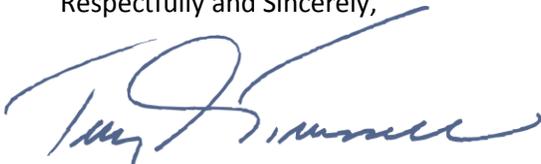
After this experience, I can confidently conclude; this court is woefully unprepared to support a proper Grand Jury process:

- Access to the People's Grand Jury, by the People themselves, is hidden and denied.
- State Statutes to the contrary, our Constitution provides no supervisory role for the Court or the State Attorney in the Grand Jury procedure. (US v Williams, 1992)
- The true function and practice of the Grand Jury in Dixie County is not served by the Court or the Clerk's Office, and is subjugated to the capricious, pervicacious, and prejudicial control by State Attorney, Jeffery Siegmeister.
- The People are ill-served and abused by this subversion of the Grand Jury system.
- Without a complete reversion to the original role, intent, independence, and process of the Grand Jury (per US v Williams), the liberty, and safety of the People of Dixie County is imperiled.

With all due respect to this Honorable Court, it is my position, this court has only two corrective actions available: (1) Reconstitute the Dixie County Grand Jury in accordance with the US Supreme Court criteria as explained by Justice Antonin Scalia in US v Williams; (2) suspend Jeffery Siegmeister from office immediately while he is brought him up on criminal charges, not the least of which include: (a) Contempt of Grand Jury, (b) Obstruction of justice, (c) Jury Tampering, (d) Contempt of Court, (e) Deprivation of Rights, and others to be determined.

His interference with, and control of this jury, tainted, usurped, and ultimately destroyed its validity as an independent body as provided in 5th and 7th Amendments of our Constitution, the Supreme Law of our Land, and as clarified and reinforced in the rulings of US v Williams, 1992.

Respectfully and Sincerely,



Terry G. Trussell, Foreman
Dixie County Grand Jury