

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

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**Statement from Solicitor Duffie Stone regarding requests
to Attorney general to empanel grand juries**

Last week, I requested that the Attorney General empanel state grand juries to investigate two unrelated cases from the 14th Judicial Circuit. One involves potential public corruption in Beaufort County, and the second involves potential public corruption in Colleton County. These cases have been under review for several months by the Public Integrity Unit, a collaboration between the 14th and 1st Circuit Solicitors Offices, and the S.C. State Law Enforcement Division.

The state grand jury is an investigative body vested with powers county grand juries do not. Those include the ability to compel sworn testimony. This power can be helpful in investigations involving potential public corruption.

The state's 16 circuit solicitors do not have direct access to an investigative grand jury. That is why I have asked the Attorney General to empanel these at the state level. I have offered any of my office's resources to assist him, as well.