

April 12, 2022

[Disciplinary Panel Member]

Title

Organization Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code

Dear []:

As members of a Special Grand Jury in the City of St. Louis, convened between November 2018 and July 2019, we are extremely disappointed in the joint stipulation agreement recommended by the Missouri Office of Disciplinary Counsel in the ethics investigation of St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner. We urge you to consider much stronger disciplinary action in this case. We firmly believe such action is warranted.

During our eight months of Special Grand Jury service, our investigation resulted in the indictment of an individual who was very closely associated with Ms. Gardner. Our work exposed us to activity and behaviors in the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's office that we considered ~~re~~ disturbing and certainly unethical. What we observed was not inadvertent nor inconsequential but was calculated deceit and/or outright incompetence; neither of which is acceptable behavior for a person holding this public office.

The individual we indicted was accused of many crimes, however, he was a private citizen. In our opinion, Ms. Gardner's offenses were markedly worse. As a lawyer sworn to uphold the law and as a public servant voted to the city's highest prosecutorial office, her behavior should be beyond reproach. Yet her disregard for the law, as detailed in both the Special Grand Jury indictment as well as in the ethics charges, is reprehensible. Our assignment as jurors was to investigate the indicted but our efforts revealed Ms. Gardner's illegal prosecutorial misconduct ~~to the point that~~ we believed her actions were ~~was likely~~ -indictable as well. The fact that an ethics review was pending suggested ~~gave us hope~~ that Ms. Gardner would indeed face severe and appropriate consequences.

We respectfully encourage you and your peers on the Disciplinary Panel to seriously consider our opinion – as jurors and as citizens of this city. We are personally invested in the outcome of your investigation. Our months long service was not only very time consuming, it was frustrating, grueling and stressful. A strong message must be delivered in this case. If not, we can only feel our time and energy were wasted.

Sincerely,

Seven (7) Special Grand Jurors from the City of St. Louis, Missouri

Juror # _____ Juror # _____ Juror # _____

Juror # _____ Juror # _____ Juror # _____