



TANEY COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

JEFFREY M. MERRELL, PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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To the Citizens of Taney County, Missouri:

After an incredibly challenging and rewarding eleven years serving Taney County as Prosecuting Attorney, I have decided not to seek a fourth term. *Therefore, my tenure as Prosecutor will end on December 31, 2018.*

I am grateful to you, the citizens of Taney County, for this opportunity to serve our community, since you first elected me in August of 2006. The work has been demanding, but – thanks to the help of our fantastic employees – I know that the Taney County Prosecutor's Office is in better shape now than it was in 2007. In 2008, we began the transition of turning the Taney County Prosecutor's Office into a paperless file model. Since completing that transition, our office has become much more efficient, enabling our relatively-small office to process over 700 felony cases each year. Along the way, we have also collected millions of dollars in restitution and bad checks for victims, as well as taxes for the State of Missouri. Systems are in place that should allow this office to continue to handle thousands of cases per year, in an organized and effective manner.

Though I had practiced law for almost 9 years before starting as Prosecutor, I've learned more about Missouri Courts and the practice of law these past eleven years than I could have imagined was possible. I have had the privilege of prosecuting thousands of felonies and misdemeanors, conducting several jury trials – including murder trials – as well as high-profile cases that directly affected the citizens of Taney County. Sponsoring and providing training for local law enforcement officers and the public has been another of the many rewarding aspects of

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the job; and I'm thankful for the opportunity to have served multiple terms on the board of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys as Treasurer. Also, one of the greatest honors of my career was to be awarded the Outstanding Service to Victims Award in 2013, by the Missouri Victim Services Academy – which, more than anything, is a testament to the quality of the incredible employees of our office. I am grateful for the experience of making difficult decisions as Prosecuting Attorney that affect individuals, as well as our community as a whole, as the experience has prepared me well for the next chapter of my career.

Thank you for the privilege of serving the citizens of Taney County as Prosecuting Attorney for the past eleven years, and I wish my successor – whoever that may be – the continued success I have enjoyed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey M. Merrell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jeffrey M. Merrell
Taney County Prosecuting Attorney