

Topic: Assistance from Fellow Prosecutor's for Criminal Matters

Ensuring transparency and honesty in public discourse is paramount to maintaining trust and integrity within our community. Recently, there have been discussions and misconceptions circulating regarding the operations of the Washington County Prosecutor's Office, and I want to take this opportunity to provide clarity and address any inaccuracies directly.

Let's first address the caseload increase over the years. Back in 2009, our office operated with just one deputy and one staff member. Since then, we've witnessed a gradual rise in caseloads, a trend mirrored in many jurisdictions across the nation. Additionally, the legalization of adult-use cannabis in Oregon in November 2014 brought forth new challenges, contributing to a significant uptick in marijuana possession and the presence of harder drugs within our county.

To effectively manage this increased caseload and address the complexities of modern legal challenges, it's not uncommon for neighboring counties to provide assistance to one another. This collaborative effort is a regular and ongoing pattern, ensuring that each county receives support when needed. Importantly, this assistance comes at no direct cost to our county unless otherwise agreed upon, as we have established agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to reciprocate support as necessary.

In one particular instance, I sought assistance from the Idaho Attorney General, Canyon County and Payette County for the Terry Ash Murder case in Midvale, Idaho. Unfortunately, due to their own staffing constraints, they were unable to provide assistance. I next reached out to an esteemed colleague Chris Topmiller, the Owyhee County Prosecutor, for his invaluable assistance. He was also unable to add a murder prosecution to his current caseload.

I finally obtained assistance from the Adams County Prosecutor, Chris Boyd. Mr. Boyd is a seasoned prosecutor with extensive experience in murder cases. Together, we initially navigated the legal complexities of the case, and ultimately, he took the lead. Through our collaborative efforts, we achieved a successful outcome, ensuring that Mr. Ash was brought to justice through a plea bargain that included an extensive prison sentence. A more detailed account of the Terry Ash Murder case is or will be provided elsewhere under that topic

It's disheartening to see misinformation being propagated, particularly when it comes to leveraging information gained in a collaborative effort between prosecutor's for political gain. As your County Prosecutor, I remain committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and fairness in all our endeavors. This includes compensating individuals from other counties for time and expenses who assist when their help is requested and agreed upon.

I want to assure you that the Washington County Prosecutor's Office remains dedicated to serving our community with diligence, integrity, and unwavering commitment to justice. Transparency and accountability are at the forefront of our operations, and I am grateful for the opportunity to address any concerns directly.