

CHEROKEE COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENTS

TO:

**The Honorable Frank C. Mills, III
Chief Judge, Superior Court
Cherokee County, Georgia**

**The Honorable N. Jackson Harris
Judge, Superior Court
Cherokee County, Georgia**

**The Honorable Ellen McElyea
Judge, Superior Court
Cherokee County, Georgia**

Presented in Open Court, Cherokee County, Georgia
This 22nd day of April, 2008
At 9:35A m.
Michael Brown
PATTY BAKER, Clerk / Deputy Clerk
Superior, State and Juvenile Courts

We, the members of this Grand Jury, chosen and sworn to serve the January 2008 term of the Superior Court of Cherokee County, hereby submit the following report and several recommendations.

We, the January 2008 Grand Jury, heard 342 bill of indictments, returned 340 true bills and 2 no bills.

PRESENTMENT 1

We, the January 2008 Grand Jury, would like to commend Superior Court Bailiff Jane Johnson for her assistance in arranging the material for the Grand Jury, managing the schedule of cases to be presented, coordinating the Grand Jury payroll, and helping the Grand Jury to run as smoothly as possible. We thank Jane for her friendliness and support of this Grand Jury.

PRESENTMENT 2

The January 2008 Grand Jury gratefully appreciates District Attorney Garry Moss and the other Assistant District Attorneys, their staff members and all of the law enforcement personnel who submitted indictments to the Grand Jury. We especially thank District Attorney Moss for always being available to answer the Grand Jury's questions. The Grand Jury suggests that a glossary of terms referred to in various charges presented, be given to future Grand Juries to expedite the procedure. For example – molestation, types of possession, battery, etc.

PRESENTMENT 3

The January 2008 Grand Jury wishes to thank Sheriff Roger Garrison, Major Chris Collett and the staff of the Sheriff's Office and Jail for their diligent work. Upon inspection of the County Detention Center (the jail) we found it to be spotless and immaculate. We were served a delicious lunch at the jail and toured the facility including the women and men's quarters. We commend Major Collett and Sheriff Garrison for having our jail under their control. The sheriff's staff runs the jail. The inmates do not.

PRESENTMENT 4

The January 2008 Grand Jury commends the office of Homeland Security and Robby Westbrook for the tour of the OHS-EMA center. We also commend our 911 center and thank Assistant Director Renay Cornelison for their tour of the facility. We commend Robby Westbrook for his pro active approach to severe weather and other emergencies in the county.

PRESENTMENT 5

The January 2008 Grand Jury commend the C-Mans staff for the work concerning drugs and drug abuse in the county. Many of the indictments presented before this body resulted from excellent and dangerous work of the C-Mans squad. We strongly recommend that all municipalities in Cherokee County continue to stand with and support their work.

PRESENTMENT 6

The January 2008 Grand Jury would like to thank Probate Judge Kip McVay, Associate Probate Judge Keith Wood and Probate Court Administrator Melinda O'Neill for meeting with the Grand Jury to discuss issues important to that court.

The Grand Jury wished to commend the probate court for its ongoing efforts to inform the public about deficiencies with the evaluation and treatment of those who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse issues.

The Grand Jury recognizes that these issues affect a broad range of governmental agencies, including the courts and law enforcement. The Grand Jury encourages both our county government and our state representatives to look at options for providing local services for those individuals which will allow them to be contributing members of society.

PRESENTMENT 7

The January 2008 Grand Jury appreciates the efforts of Glenda Casteel the CBO of the Cherokee County Building Department. Her written presentation addressed all of the questions presented and the additional documentation explained the fees and code requirements.

We were disappointed that a face to face visit could not take place in case there were additional concerns. We recommend that the building department establish a rule that places the responsibility to charge extra fees, with the office and not the inspector. Additional fees should not be charged until each inspection is complete.

PRESENTMANT 8

The January 2008 Grand Jury would like to thank County Manager Jerry Cooper for his report to the Grand Jury concerning the operations of the Cherokee County Arts Center and his general overview of his office.

PRESENTMENT 9

The January 2008 Grand Jury reviewed election ballots from 1992-2004 that were slated to be destroyed. To retain the integrity of the voting process in Cherokee County, the Grand Jury recommends that an elected body review the checks and balances of the Cherokee County Board of Elections and Registration as it pertains to accountability to the voters of Cherokee County

PRESENTMENT 10

The January 2008 Grand Jury would like to thank Patty Baker for the tour of her office and to commend Patty Baker, Clerk of Courts, and her staff for automating the clerks office, for bringing services, forms, and documents on-line through the utilization of technology thus enhancing performance, efficiency, and providing the citizens of Cherokee County with improved customer service. Additionally, the clerk's office has installed high-tech digital scanning to improve document management, implemented a web based case management search, and brought the Clerk's office up-to-date with no back log of filings. The Clerk of Courts office has implemented regular revisions of the jury pool so that the same people do not have to serve over and over again.

PRESENTMENT 11

We, the January 2008 Grand Jury request that the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners begin discussions with the Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority and the Cherokee State Delegation regarding the process by which the CCWSA board shall have members appointed by elected body thereby giving the citizens of Cherokee County the accountability and resource needed for such a vital resource in the community.

PRESENTMENT 12

The January 2008 Grand Jury has noticed the number of bills of indictment heard this term approaches the number that can effectively be handled by a single Grand Jury and precludes thorough investigative processes. We recommend that the Court give consideration to increasing the number of days per month served.

PRESENTMENT 13

The January 2008 Grand Jury was presented with fifteen years of Cherokee County Water and Sewer Authority data during the last session of this Grand Jury thus precluding adequate time for review. We strongly suggest that this material be presented to the May 2008 Grand Jury at the beginning of their term for their review.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Byron L. Dobbs', written over a horizontal line.

Byron L. Dobbs
Grand Jury Foreman

CHEROKEE COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

Filed in Office, Cherokee County, Georgia

This 22nd day of April, 2008

At 9:35 m.

Meredith Broome
PATTY BAKER, Clerk Deputy Clerk
Superior, State and Juvenile Courts

ORDER

The within and foregoing Grand Jury Presentments having read and considered, let the same be filed.

Let a copy of these Presentments, along with a copy of this Order; be sent to the Cherokee Tribune and Radio Station WLJA for publication and the usual fees paid thereon.

It is further ordered that the Clerk of Superior Court, Cherokee County, Georgia mail a copy of these presentments to each legislator who represents Cherokee County, and to each Cherokee County Commissioner.

This the 22 day of April, 2008.

[Signature]
Judge, Superior
Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit