


**GEORGIA**

**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY**

**It is ordered that the foregoing presentments of the Grand Jury empanelled for the 2023 October Term of the Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County be entered on the minutes of the Court and published at the expense of the County in the official organ of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia. Exhibits are not to be published, but shall be available for inspection and reproduction in the Office of Clerk of Superior Court of Athens-Clarke County.**

**This 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.**



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**H. Patrick Haggard, Judge  
Superior Court Athens-Clarke County  
Western Judicial Circuit**

**Filed in Open Court this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023.**



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**Elisa Zarate, Clerk of Superior Court**

**General Presentation and Reports**  
**Athens-Clarke County Grand Jury**  
**October Term 2023**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023, the Honorable Judge Patrick Haggard selected a jury of 25 people including two alternates to the Grand Jury. Judge Patrick Haggard then administered the oath and charged them with their responsibilities.

The jurors then selected Elizabeth Jackson as Foreperson, Cody Marchbanks as Assistant Foreperson, Callie Heard as Secretary, and Jessica Davis as Assistant Secretary. Elizabeth Jackson's last day was November 14th and Cody Marchbanks became Foreperson and Gregory Price became Assistant Foreperson.

The remaining jurors were Daniel Anderson, Robert Armstrong, Benjamin Battey, Shaquon Brown, Robert Butler, Cynthia Campbell, Adrian Crabtree, Adrianna Creech, William Hewett, Joddie Lawrence, Franklin Leach, Owen O'Steen, Nathan Reinheld, Summer Swaine, Cornelius Taylor, Dreidan Thomas, Teresa Tom, Stephanie Whitten. Alternates Mary Wickwire and Thomas Harris.

**Criminal Functions**

The Grand Jury was presented with cases. Of the cases, 85 were True Bills, 0 were No Bills, and 0 were returned as Split Bills. This activity took place October 10th, October 17th, October 31st, November 7th, November 14th, November 28th, December 5th, December 12th, and December 19th.

**Civil Functions**

A team of jurors visited the Clarke County Jail. We were met with friendly faces at check in. The tour was led by Chief, Captain, and Lieutenant. We also were able to meet with the Sheriff. During the tour we were met with other hardworking workers and friendly faces. The jail appeared cleaned and well kept. The jurors the participated on the tour were Daniel Anderson, Nathaniel Reinheld, Jessica Davis, Gregory Price, Callie Heard, and Cody Marchbanks, Mr. Rettiger also attended as well.

The Board of equalization requested an increase in pay per session from \$25.00 to \$50.00. As grand Jury we voted in favor of the BOE.

**General Observations**

In general the staff at the court house is friendly and professional. Assistant District Attorney, Mr. Rettiger was well organized and presented the cases thoroughly. We would recommend a second person to proofread the indictments to help with not wasting the jurors and witnesses time to make corrections. We would also recommend if someone is potentially moving or known to be moving not being selected as a juror and/or not being selected as secretary or foreperson.


## **Closing Remarks**

As jurors we ask the compensation rate for grand jurors be raised from \$35 per day to \$50 per day. We recommend jurors be paid biweekly for their service. Some jurors are not compensated by their employers and this would help them during this 3 month time of service.

We suggest the court provide a document outlining the duties and responsibilities of the Foreperson, Assistant Foreperson, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary. This should include a clear explanation of the voting process and how to properly document the indictments to notate "True", "No", and "Split" Bills. This resource should also include a guideline for presentments as well as a schedule of days in session. We would like to thank Bailiff Jackie for her hard work. She makes sure the room is set up and ready to go for us. We would also recommend providing a clock in the grand jury room as well.



**Cody Marchbanks, Foreperson**



**Callie Heard, Secretary**

**October 2023 Jurors**

Daniel Anderson	Excused absent
Robert Armstrong	Robert Armstrong
Benjamin Battey	Benjamin W. Battey
Shaquon Brown	Shaquon Brown
Robert Butler	RBT
Cynthia Campbell	Cynthia Campbell
Adrian Crabtree	Adrian Crabtree
Adrianna Creech	Adrianna Creech
Jessica Davis (Assistant Secretary)	Jessica Davis
William Hewett	W. Hewett
Callie Heard (Secretary)	Callie Heard
Elizabeth Jackson	Moved
Joddie Lawrence	Joddie Lawrence
Franklin Leech Leach	Franklin Leach
Cody Marchbanks (Foreperson)	Cody Marchbanks
Owen O'Steen	Owen O'Steen
Gregory Price (Assistant Foreperson)	Gregory Price
Nathan Reinheld	Nathan Reinheld
Summer Swaine	Summer Swaine
Cornelius Lee	Cornelius Lee
Dreidan Thomas	Dreidan Thomas
Theresa Tom	Theresa Tom
Stephanie Whitten	Stephanie Whitten
Mary Wickwire (Alternate)	
Thomas Harris (Alternate)	