



16th Judicial Circuit of Jackson County, Missouri

For Release:
May 18, 2015

Contact: Valerie Hartman
Public Information Officer
(816) 881-3552

Circuit Court Statement regarding Missouri State Auditor's News Release

The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit was disappointed to see today's news release from the recently-appointed Missouri State Auditor which does not fairly summarize the results of that office's audit of the Court, a process which began with the Court's contact with Ms. Galloway's predecessor in the middle of 2012. This was after the Court reported the results of its *own* internal investigation into the activities of the Court's former Court Administrator to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Attorney's office.

From May to October 2014, Court staff worked closely with staff from the Auditor's office. In fact, the Court's staff brought many of the issues contained in today's report to the Auditor's attention in the first instance. Notably, this includes the issue regarding the investments featured so prominently in Ms. Galloway's press release, which fails to mention that the issue was fully resolved and reported as such to the Auditor's office on February 4, 2015 – more than three months ago. The Court no longer holds any of the investments referred to by Ms. Galloway in her release. The Auditor's characterization that issues "continue to persist" suggests that the Court has not been working hard to address these issues. That is not correct. The public should know that the draft report with the final findings was not provided to the Court until late March of 2015, long after the Court began to correct these issues.

We encourage members of the media and public to read the Court's response to each of the findings in the **full report**. Those responses appear in *italics* at the end of each section of the report. As you will see from our response, the Court does not disagree with the findings of the audit and is working diligently to correct the remaining issues raised in the Auditor's report.

###

For Missouri State Auditor's Full Report:

<http://www.auditor.mo.gov/Repository/Press/2015029506831.pdf>