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Paul Fox Director of Judicial Administration St. Louis County Circuit Court 7900 Carondelet Avenue Clayton, Missouri 63105

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January 12, 2015

Ms. Sherrilyn A. Ifill Director-Counsel LDF 40 Rector Street, 5th Floor New York, NY 10006-1738

Via Facsimile (202) 682-1312

Re: State of Missouri vs. Darren Wilson Grand Jury Proceedings

Dear Ms. Ifill:

Your letter dated January 5, 2015 to the Presiding Judge has been directed to me for reply. Your letter was forwarded to me because the Judge may not consider an ex parte communication concerning an impending matter.

The Code of Judicial Conduct prohibits a judge from initiating, permitting or considering an ex parte communications or communications outside the presence of the parties or their lawyers concerning a pending or impending matter. Missouri Code of Judicial Conduct 2-2.9. Your letter advocates legal positions and contains interpretations of the law. In addition, you seek affirmative relief, but your letter is not in the form of a legal pleading and no adverse party is listed or served in accordance with Missouri law. The legal issues raised in your letter, if properly brought before the Court, may have to be resolved by litigation. Judicial rulings are issued after full consideration is given to the issues raised and all parties needed for a just adjudication are afforded the opportunity to participate.

The Judge, of course, is a member of the judicial branch and is required to handle matters in accordance with the law and pursuant to proper legal procedures. If a Judge commented on or acted on your letter, the response could be used to disqualify the Judge in a future hearing. In other words, the Judge could be accused of prejudging a matter. Judges speak on legal issues through orders and judgments. Therefore, there will not be any comment or response by the

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Presiding Judge to your letter to avoid compromising the future ability of the Judge to properly hear and rule on litigation in a fair and impartial manner. It is my hope that you understand and respect the Court's position.

> Sincerely, Tanl ; Paul Fox

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Cc: Mr. Robert McCulloch **Prosecuting Attorney**