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June 4, 2025

Custodian of Records

Janet Horine, Circuit Clerk
8th Circuit Court, Carroll County
8 South Main Street
Carrollton, MO 64633

RE: Sunshine Request for Records Relating to Case Dispositions by Judge Joe Don McGaugh

Dear Custodian of Records,

Pursuant to the Missouri Sunshine Law (Chapter 610, RSMo), I am formally requesting access to and copies of all **written and electronic notes, correspondence, communications, and internal documentation** related to the **disposition of all cases heard by Judge Joe Don McGaugh** during the **three-month period immediately preceding the commencement of his judicial suspension**.

This request specifically includes, but is not limited to:

- Internal memos, notes, or summaries regarding Judge McGaugh's rulings or decisions;
- Communications (including emails, letters, or digital messages) between Judge McGaugh and any clerks, court staff, attorneys, parties, or other judicial officers regarding any cases he disposed of during that timeframe;
- Any documents reflecting the rationale or procedural steps taken in issuing dismissals, rulings, or final orders;
- Any records referencing or discussing the timing of Judge McGaugh's suspension in relation to active or pending cases;
- Metadata or internal case routing notes, including docket management documentation.

This request covers both civil and criminal matters, and includes records stored in paper files, digital case management systems, emails, or other electronic platforms used by the court or the judge's chambers.

This request is made in the public interest, as there is credible concern regarding potential misconduct by Judge McGaugh, including favoritism, denial of due process, and improper case disposition. Transparency into the court's handling of these cases is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring accountability within the judiciary.

If there are any fees associated with fulfilling this request, please provide a written estimate before processing. If any portion of this request is denied, I request that you cite the specific exemption(s) relied upon and provide the factual basis for the denial, as required by §610.023 and §610.024, RSMo.

I am willing to accept the records electronically via email or secure file transfer. Please respond within the time frame required by law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Christopher Larsen