

## OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

## VERN PIERSON, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 8, 2022

Ellen Leonida BraunHagey & Borden LLP 351 California Street, 10th Floor San Francisco, CA 94104

**RE: Public Records Act Request** 

Ms. Leonida,

We are writing to you in response to your March 25, 2022 PRA letter, which was a follow up to the original July 23, 2021 PRA and your recent January 18, 2022 follow up letter. You noted in your March 25, 2022 follow up letter that you sought public records "...relating to the Racial Justice Act, and records regarding Batson/Wheeler investigations" and you stated that we objected to the production of these categories of public records.

However, if you see our September 27, 2021 response, page 5, paragraph D we said "we have no record regarding 'implementation of and compliance with RJA' and do not have a formal office policy" and noted in our response that we are guided solely by the law on this matter. This response has not changed as of the date of this correspondence. In short, we have no responsive public records on the RJA other than emails from or between senior attorney DA management staff discussing the pending/new RJA legislation and/or the ACLU public record act requests concerning RJA. There are no communications about our office implementation of RJA.

Additionally, if you see our September 27, 2021 response, page 5, paragraph E we said we made inquiries internally as to the last 15 years if there even were any granted Batson-Wheeler motions, and there were none to our senior management staff's recollection. (Since the date of the last letter, there was a granted Batson-Wheeler Motion, but the juror was reseated and there are no public records or documents relating to this recent court event.) Accordingly, we have no records of Batson-Wheeler motions filed, motions granted, discipline, or reports to the State Bar. In short, we have no responsive documents other than what are likely a few internal trainings on the general topic of jury selection.

Very truly yours,

VERN PIERSON District Attorney

JAMES A. CLINCHARD Assistant District Attorney

778 Pacific Street, Placerville, CA 95667 – (530) 621-6472 Fax: (530) 621-1280 www.eldoradoda.com