

Mr. Litke,

The DOJ investigation never should have been initiated. They concluded that there was no basis to the claim and dropped the investigation. Unfortunately, this frivolous exercise involving valuable resources never should have occurred.

Ozaukee County has always enjoyed top of the line judges that have served the citizens well. As an elected official myself, I have enjoyed working with them as a team and when an issue, perceived or otherwise occurred we did what any healthy top performing organization does, we discuss it as a group to identify the issue or question the practice and make adjustments if warranted.

This has been the practice of Presiding Judge Malloy, Judge Williams and their predecessors. Judge Voiland, rather than pursuing this course of action on a court practice that has been in effect prior to my tenure here thinks that a secret, John Doe like, investigation had to be started.

In my opinion, this investigation was an unnecessary witch hunt that found nothing but left in its wake a real sense of harassment stemming from Judge Voiland.

The claims you wish for me to answer are either false, twisted in their presentation or context, or merely are office issues that normally are not aired out to the media. As a reporter you should question yourself when all of sudden you are provided something like this as there clearly is a reason and clearly they had nothing to do with the original frivolous complaint.

Why would someone give you a DOJ investigation report that resulted in no credible evidence of wrong doing but yet is full of additional minor complaints that have nothing to do with the original investigation. As information, I have never been formally notified by the DOJ of their decision to not pursue any further action and to drop the investigation. They apparently did not think enough of this to even let me know they no longer are going to pursue it.

None-the-less, I am answering your questions as I believe it is important that allegations like this unanswered would give the wrong impression as to the truth, no matter how boring the truth is:

- Refusing to file orders in a timely manner: **The CoC office does not have a policy of refusing to file lawful orders or to do so timely. If a lawful order was not filed timely I would investigate and address the issue why.**
- Refusing to answer questions, sometimes for months: **This is an open ended claim and has not context to it. I have put in extra effort to address questions or issues from Judge Voland and about Judge Voiland. He is not very physically available at work.**

- Opening his mail, even mail marked confidential: **Judges should not be receiving personal mail at work. It is possible that staff opened what he might perceive as confidential but to staff all mail is handled the same. If something was so personal that staff should not be handling it, he should have it mailed to his home. Again, there is no context to your question so I would say that if true it was because staff opened the mail as if it was any other piece of mail. That is what staff does in order to process the work product efficiently and effectively.**
- Using his personal divorce as an example case in staff training: **This was done. It was not directed by me to do so. It was a lapse in judgement by staff and was addressed immediately.**
- Adjourning court dates the judge had not ordered adjourned: **Again this claim is out of context. The clerk's we have are hard working, good people with experience. If they adjourned a matter contrary to the Judges wishes, it was either an honest mistake done without malice or the Judge was not available to provide additional guidance to the clerk.**
- Creating a "dummy" John Doe case to (he believed) skip his turn in the John Doe assignment rotation: **False. Flat out false conspiratorial claim.**
- Putting a copy of the appeals ruling overturning him in his mailbox: **All judges have copies of appeal decisions in their mailbox. If he is cc'd by the court of Appeals on a matter he will receive a copy.**
- Delaying passing along invitations until it was too late or almost so: **False. Staff process mail as fast as we get it to all the judges equally. There is no reason nor incentive for staff to engage in this practice. If the judge did not receive something timely it was either because it did not come in timely or he was not at work to receive it.**

The investigation also found your office conducted business in ways that at least weren't consistent with best practices elsewhere:

- Changing probate cases from formal to informal on your own, typically granting extensions as part of that without judicial involvement. **Across the District and the State my office, my practice, my staff and my skills are viewed as a leaders, mentors and are held in high regard.**
- Routinely backdating judicial transfers (and sometimes orders), sometimes by many months: Again, context is not provided. Does staff make mistakes from time to time. **Yes. However, any issues in this regard were done without malice and have been corrected internally.**
- Appointing deputy registers in probate without judicial approval: **All judges were aware of the appointed deputy RIPs. When an order was not found on file Presiding Judge Malloy followed up to rectify the situation.**

It is good for individuals to question government officials actions. I do encourage that as it helps us become more effective. However, there is a healthy way to do that and a cancerous one. I am fortunate that Presiding Judge Malloy and Judge Williams chose to work in an open, available and collegial atmosphere so we can address the serious matters in front of the court to best serve the citizens of Ozaukee County. I hope that Judge Voiland will join in this approach.