



**John K. Edwards, Jr.**  
**Judge of the State Court of Lowndes County**  
LOWNDES COUNTY JUDICIAL COMPLEX

327 NORTH ASHLEY STREET  
P. O. BOX 1661  
VALDOSTA, GA 31603-1661

TELEPHONE (229) 671-2600  
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January 1, 2013

Ms. Jane Doe  
123 Smith Street  
Valdosta, Georgia 31601

Dear Ms. Doe:

I want to personally thank you for your service as a juror during the recent criminal term of the State Court of Lowndes County. Whether serving on a jury or as a member of the jury pool, your sacrifice of time and energy ensures that citizens seeking their day in court receive the consideration they deserve. Without your participation, our Court would be unable to function. Your presence assisted the Court in the disposition of a large number of cases which would have otherwise not been cleared from the Court's docket. There simply are not words to adequately describe the essential role that you play as a citizen in assisting the Court in resolving these cases.

Criminal jury service is a great commitment, not only as to your time, but also as to your diligent attention to the details of the case. Criminal cases are among the most important matters resolved in our Court and ensure the protections of the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to our U.S. Constitution.

As your State Court Judge, I am constantly reviewing ways to make the Court more efficient and I would greatly appreciate any feedback or suggestions you may have based upon your service and experience in our Court. In addition, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your service as a juror, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed above.

Each time I preside over a jury trial, I am thoroughly impressed by the insight of our jurors and their commitment to our court system here in Lowndes County.

Again, I thank you for your service as a juror.

Sincerely,

John K. Edwards, Jr., Judge  
State Court of Lowndes County, Georgia

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Dear Ms. Doe:

While your jury experience is fresh on your mind, I wanted to take the time to thank you for your service. Despite the fact that you were not selected to serve on an actual jury, or you were selected but the case was disposed of prior to trial, you have performed one of our country's most important civic duties.

As citizens, we are all entitled to resolve disputes in a court of law under established rules, and to have certain issues determined by a jury of our peers. A fair and impartial judicial system is essential if we wish to maintain the freedoms we all enjoy. In order for the system to work properly, it is necessary that each jury panel contain individuals who ultimately will not be selected to serve as a juror for that particular case. If members of our community were not willing to lay aside other activities and duties to serve as members of a jury panel, these fundamental rights would be meaningless and our legal system could not function.

It was a pleasure to interact with you during your jury service in this Court. If you have any suggestions to improve the system or to make things more comfortable for future jurors, please let me know. Again, thank you for your service and I hope it was a positive experience.

Sincerely,

John K. Edwards, Jr., Judge  
State Court of Lowndes County, Georgia

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