

Vaillencourt Response

Shortly after I filed my first request for investigation with the Judicial Tenure Commission regarding Judge Brennan in early February of 2017, I also requested that a separate criminal investigation be conducted by the Michigan State Police in order to determine what the facts are, as opposed to rumor, speculation, and innuendo. I provided a copy of all the materials at that time to the Michigan State Police via the Attorney General's Office. To avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest in that investigation, and consistent with the ethical duties imposed on prosecutors, I have no role whatsoever in that investigation.

There were, and continue to be, multiple potential conflicts of interest when a sitting judge is investigated. In this case, because the investigation could impact the validity of a murder conviction, I wanted there to be no question about the independence and integrity of the investigation. Potential witnesses include members of the court and court staff, members of my office, and local defense attorneys. Given those circumstances, to maintain the integrity of the investigation and to ensure public confidence in the results of that investigation, I have steadfastly avoided any involvement in it.

I, like everyone else in this community, am anxiously awaiting answers from the State Police investigation. Justice demands it.