



Bruce H. Colton  
State Attorney

OFFICE OF THE  
**State Attorney**  
NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA  
SERVING  
INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, OKEECHOBEE  
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5 March 2009

Florida Highway Patrol  
Attn: Col. John Czernis  
2900 Apalachee Parkway  
Room A 437  
MS 40  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0500

**RE: Letter of Commendation for Trooper Scott Gardner and Trooper Mike Gosier**

Dear Col. Czernis:

I write to commend Trooper Scott Gardner and Trooper Mike Gosier for their outstanding performance in the case of State of Florida v. Elizabeth Ramsey (Agency #: FHPK06OFF068179). On November 27, 2006, the defendant, was stopped by Trooper Gardner on the Florida Turnpike for suspicion of Driving Under the Influence. Trooper Gosier arrived on the scene as his back-up unit. Both officers quickly realized that the defendant, an Assistant Public Defender assigned to the Major Crimes Division at the West Palm Beach Public Defender's Office, was under the influence of alcohol because she smelled like alcohol, had several bottles of Mike's Hard Lemonade within arm's reach, and because another driver on the Turnpike witnessed her come close to causing several accidents several minutes prior to the traffic stop. They also noticed that she had a 7 year-old child in the backseat.

Given that Ms. Ramsey was (and unfortunately, still is) a criminal defense attorney, an aggressive defense was mounted whereby both troopers were accused of being outright liars by Ms. Ramsey and her privately-retained attorneys. In front of two separate juries, the defense relentlessly engaged in personal attacks of both troopers where not only their competence was questioned, but their personal integrity was attacked as well. One defense attorney even told the judge that he believed the troopers had fabricated their testimony in order to convict his client, of whom the troopers had never even met.

Through all of these attacks, each trooper maintained bearing and composure, and delivered honest and credible testimony as to the events that occurred that day. In the end, each jury (the case was tried twice) believed the officers, and *not* the defendant, and she was found guilty of Resisting Officer Without Violence and D.U.I. With a Passenger Under Age 18. She is set for sentencing on April 1, 2009.



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The level of professionalism exhibited by these troopers speaks to the quality of your agency and ensures that the People of the State of Florida are safer as a direct result of their actions. They are to be commended for their efforts in this case. I make this commendation without reservation.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "DORRIL".

Donald R. Richardson  
Assistant State Attorney

CC: Trooper Scott Gardner, Troop L, West Palm Beach FL  
Trooper Mike Gosier, Troop K, Orlando, FL