

# Summers . . .

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him 'what he believed to be the truth.'

He "admitted to breaking the law and that because he was a police officer does not put him above the law," Guhin said.

Guhin said the Meyer's prosecution would serve as an example for other police investigations. "The law should be applied to everybody," he said.

Guhin said he thought all 12 jurors would have signed the letter, but that only nine were contacted.

"In my ten years of practice in criminal law, I've never heard of a jury joining in such a request," he said.

Juror Candy Kopchak said, "the 12 jurors all felt very strongly about Meyer's conduct. This was such an incredible case, we felt we had do something."

"I believe the evidence I heard in court proved that Meyer perjured himself and that he terrorized the witnesses," Kopchak said.

However, "our decision was not based on whether or not we liked Meyer."

Meyer, she said, "manufactured the evidence because he was so obsessed with convicting Mr. Summers."

Gerry Williamson, a private investigator who signed the letter, told Meyer's supervisors "two years ago that the police probe was tainted with an overzealous investigator."

The police investigation, the most extensive in the city's history, was the subject of controversy from its beginning. Summers was the chief suspect initially, but after witnesses said Summers was in Utah the day of the murder, police interest in him dimmed.

Meyer asked to be assigned to the reopened case in 1979 which focused on Summers again. Meyer testified the case meant a great deal to him personally. The kidnapped children, one of which had cystic fibrosis, have never been found.

Signing the letter were:

Guhin and public defender Gary Smeltzer; Williamson, Russell Rodosky and Roger Denney, private investigators; and jurors Kopchak, Wayne Nicholas, Mike Kelley, Peggy Larson, Walter H. Young, Robin Holbrook, Clifton Arnold, Linda D. Duckworth and Alice J. Kravig.