

**M E M O R A N D U M**  
**OREGON STATE POLICE**

**DATE:** January 20, 2020

**TO:** Lieutenant Stephen Payne  
Criminal Investigation Division  
General Headquarters

**FROM:** James Koehler, Detective  
Bend Area Command

**SUBJECT:** **BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION REQUEST FOR THE GRANT &  
HARNEY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE VACANCY –  
CANDIDATE ROBERT RASCHIO**

**REFER:** Judicial Appointment Interest Form dated October 22, 2019  
Initial Personal Interview Questionnaire  
Reference Questionnaires for Judicial Appointment  
TLO Report  
Credit Report-Equifax

**CANDIDATE:** Robert Raschio



**RESIDENCE:** [REDACTED]  
John Day, OR 97845



**INITIAL PERSONAL INTERVIEW:**

On January 13, 2020, I contacted Mr. Robert Raschio at his place of work which is located at 206 S. Humbolt St. Canyon City, Oregon. The interview was conducted with no one else present. Mr. Raschio's office was clean, professional and orderly. The office is located across the street from the Grant County Court House.

[REDACTED]

His eye contact and nonverbal communication appeared normal.

Mr. Raschio had a friendly and personable demeanor. He seemed at ease during the interview and engaged very easily in conversation. He was articulate when speaking and expressed anxiousness in regards to the judicial appointment process.

Initially, Mr. Raschio and I reviewed the Judicial Appointment Form. Mr. Raschio confirmed he was the person who completed his Judicial Appointment Form. He was offered the opportunity to make any needed changes or corrections to the form. The two changes he made were to who his new State Senator was and the State Representative in his district had been recently vacated and was open.

Mr. Raschio is a 46-year-old male who is married and has two children. Mr. Raschio's spouse is Sena Raschio, who is a kindergarten teacher at Humbolt Elementary School in Canyon City, Oregon.

Mr. Raschio has lived in the Grant County for the last 6 years and is active in the community. He has served as a Grant County Commissioner and on the John Day Advisory Council. He was been a member of John Day Elks and the Lions Club of Burns, Oregon.

Mr. Raschio is currently self-employed as an attorney with the Law Office of Robert S. Raschio for the last 6 years.

Prior to Mr. Raschio opening his own Law Firm, he was a partner at Morris, Olson, Smith, Starns, Raschio and Sullivan, PC in The Dalles, Oregon. Mr. Raschio started his career in 2001-2002 at the Law Office of Markku Sario, PC in Canyon City, Oregon. 2002 was partner at Mallon, Lamborn and Raschio in Burns, Oregon.

Mr. Raschio's case load is approximately 82% criminal, 15% civil/juvenile, 2% domestic relations and 1% administrative.

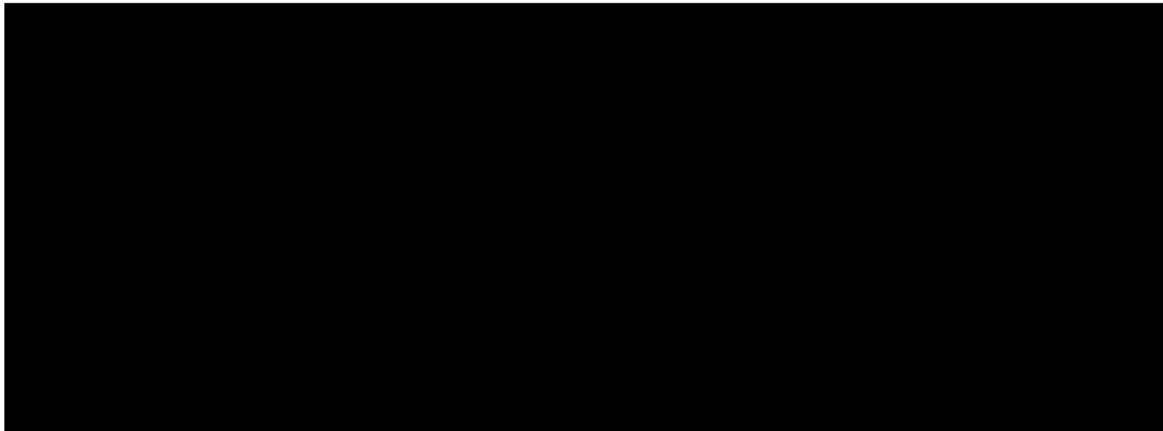
Some of the recent noteworthy cases Mr. Raschio has tried as Sole Counsel include:

- Sex Abuse, Baker County, (2018)
- Arson, Harney County (2016)
- Tribal Hunting, Wasco County (2018)

Mr. Raschio, in his practice, engages regularly in settlement negotiations with opposing attorneys.

Mr. Raschio stated he had been practicing law for 18 years and wanted to transition into being a judge. He felt he could make sure individuals are treated fairly both criminally and civilly. He has a strong interest in public safety and accountability.

Mr. Raschio stated he would need to change from being an advocate for clients and his personal beliefs. He also stated he has had professional disagreements that have turned personal with the Harney County District Attorney Joey Lucas and ADA Ryan Hughes. Mr. Raschio admitted the interactions have been poor and he believes that is because of different views on the law and the treatment of people. Mr. Raschio admitted he is partially to blame for the conflict but believes the relationship is resolvable. At the end of the answering the question, Mr. Raschio changed it from personal to just professional disagreements.

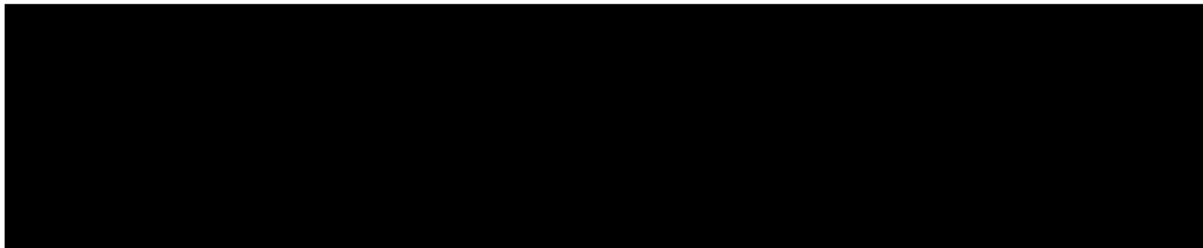


I asked Mr. Raschio if he has ever been involved with internet social networking such as Facebook, Instagram, etc. Mr. Raschio stated he has a facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. He is active on facebook but does use Instagram and Twitter sporadically.

After completing the interview, I met Mr. Raschio at his residence and viewed it.

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

Harney County District Attorney's Office  
Grant County District Attorney's Office  
Justice of the Peace-Grant County  
Harney & Grant County Circuit Court Employees





**MILITARY HISTORY:**

N/A

**EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**


1987-1991 Clackamas High School  
1991-1992 Pacific Lutheran University  
1994-1997 Portland State University-B.S. History  
1998-2001 University of Oregon School of Law-Graduated JD

**EDUCATIONAL VERIFICATION CHECK:**

Verified through diploma's hanging on Mr. Raschio's office wall.

**EMPLOYMENT RECORD:**

Mr. Raschio listed all employment from 2000, which included 5 different employers. One of those was intern employment. I was able to confirm and speak with two employers since 2002. One employer would gladly welcome him back.



I was unable to contact the employers listed on his application at the following places, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and Law Office of Markku Sario, PC.

The one employer who spoke highly of Mr. Raschio stated he was

- Fair
- Hard worker
- Very Intelligent
- Great attitude
- Cares about people

**VOLUNTEER VERIFICATOIN CHECK:**

Mr. Raschio listed 10 different projects he is involved with or has been involved with in regards to volunteer position's, civic and community activities, charity work and other public services, including:

- Chair/Board Member – Professional Liability Fund 2014-2019
- President/Board Member – Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association Board of Directors 2008-2012
- Commissioner – Grant County Court 2018
- Vice Chair – Lions Club, Burns 2002-2006
- Member - John Day Elks 2001-02/2017-18
- Advisor – City of John Day Advisory Council 2018-2019
- Member – City of The Dalles Planning Commission
- Member – Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyer's Trial Skill Faculty 2015-2018, 2020
- Advisor – Bishop's Advisory Counsel, Baker Dioceses 2018-2019
- Councilman – Burns City Council 2003-2006
- Member – Public Defense Advisory Group

Through interviews or internet searches, I was able to confirm all of the above listed except two.

**REFERENCES:**

Mr. Raschio provided a list of five individuals who could be contacted as references. Four of the five references were contacted and interviewed. All references, including a judge spoke highly of Mr. Raschio. It should be mentioned, that none of Mr. Raschio's references live or work within Harney or Grant County.

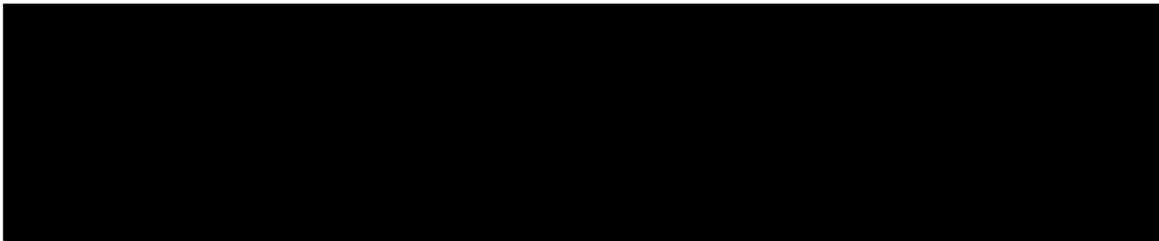
I asked each reference to give me a list of traits a judge should have in order to be successful in the position. The following is a list of the traits given for Mr. Raschio:

- Work ethic
- Diligent
- Caring

- Articulate
- Passionate
- Great communicator

I consistently heard those same traits from the references when describing Mr. Raschio.

All I conversed with have enjoyed working with Mr. Raschio and believe he would make an excellent Judge.



**OTHERS CONTACTED WHO WERE NOT REFERENCES:**

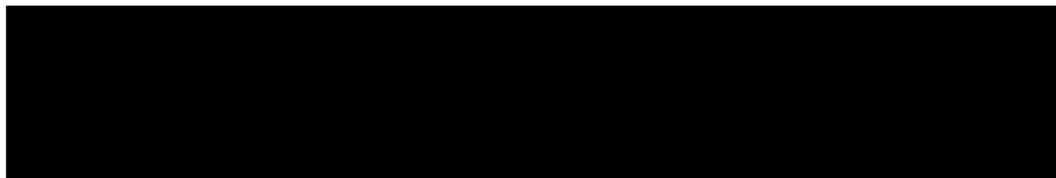
I contacted and interviewed a total of 14 individuals who were not Mr. Raschio's references. Those included employees, other attorney's, neighbor, [REDACTED] and Judges.

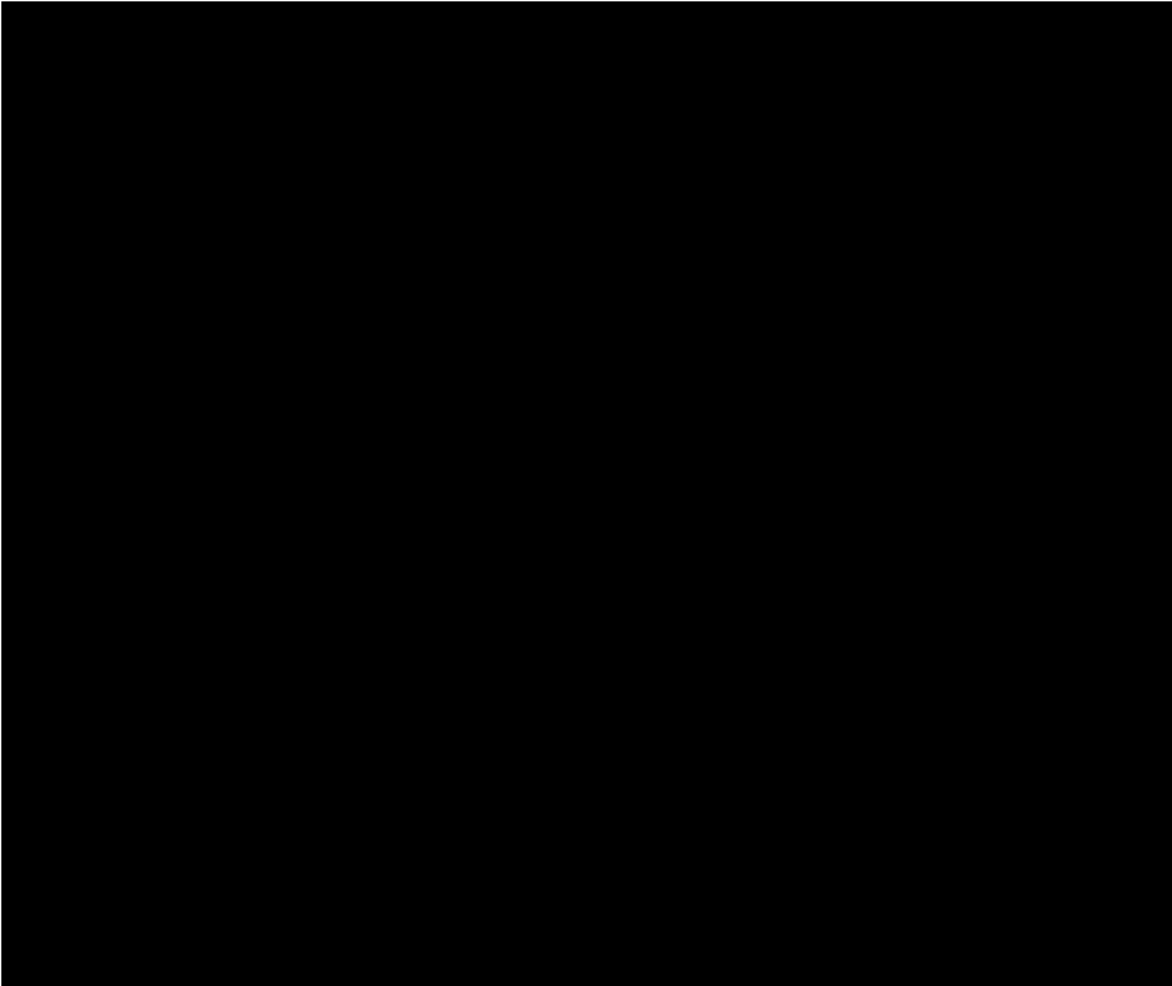
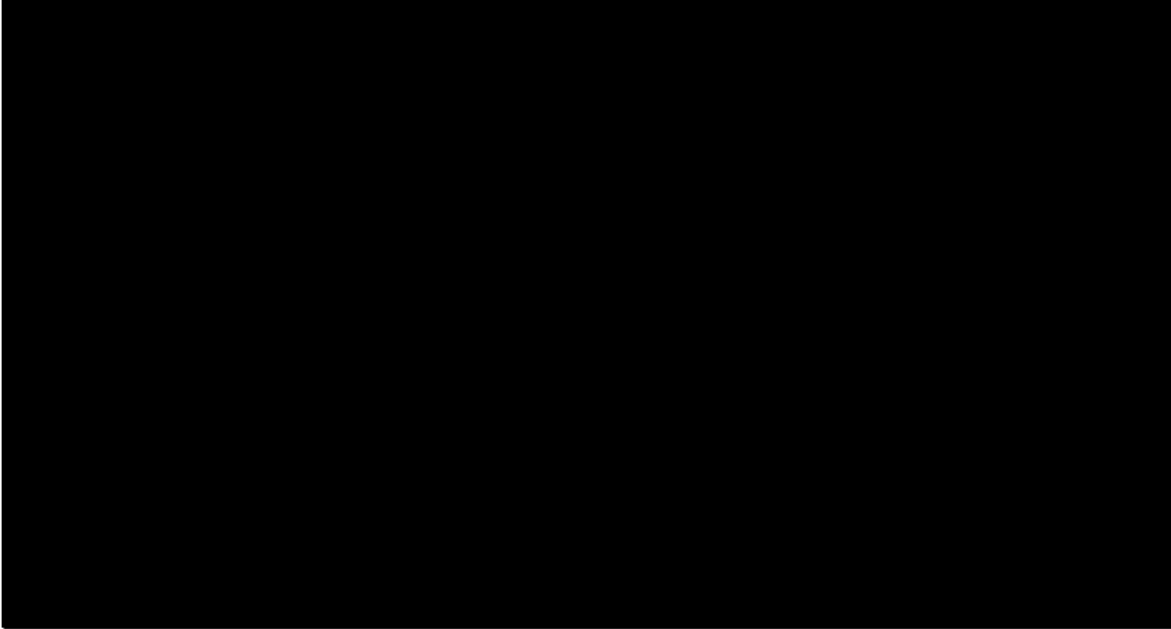
The following are a list of individuals who were interviewed and have voiced their concerns about Mr. Raschio being appointed.

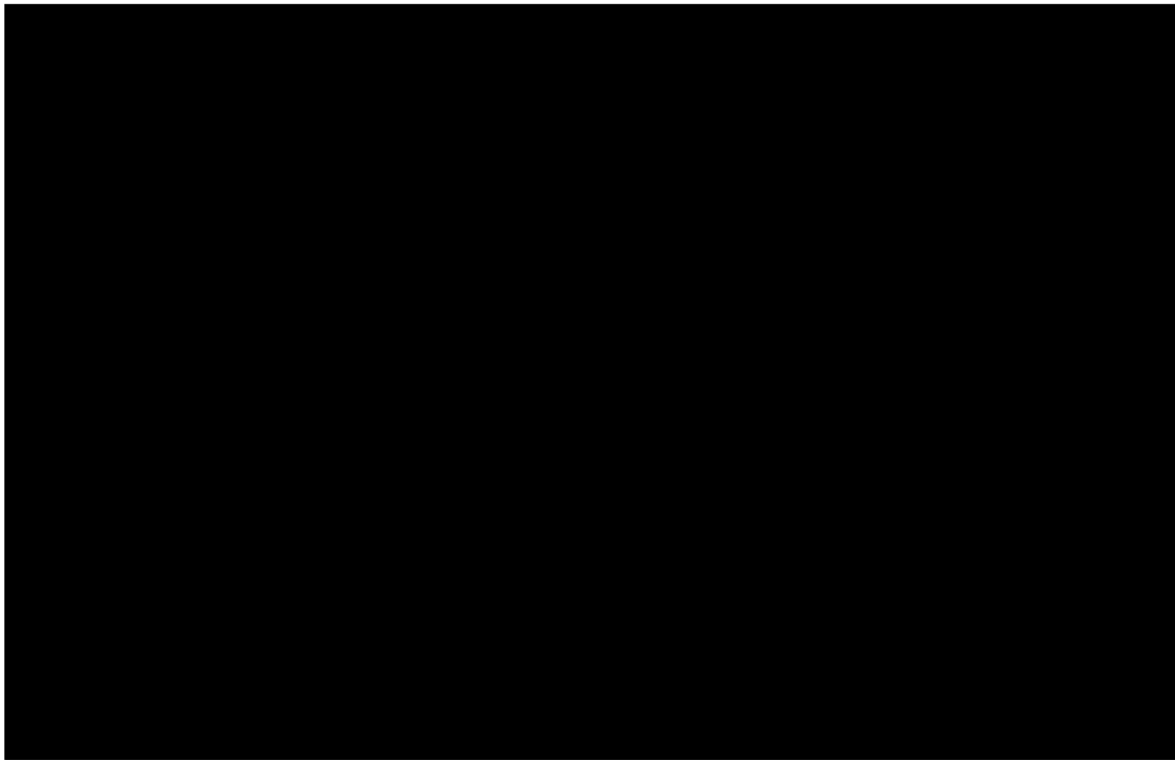
**Judge William Cramer:**

Mr. Raschio and the Grant and Harney County District Attorney's offices have had professional disagreements that have become personal. It came to the point where Judge Cramer had to meet and with all three and try to assist in improving the working relationship. This issue has also occurred between Mr. Raschio and other defense attorney's.

Judge Cramer stated he felt but was unsure Mr. Raschio had withheld or misrepresented information to the court. This occurred when Mr. Raschio's motions for continuance were denied. Mr. Raschio then submitted a different motion and hidden within that motion was the motion to continue. Judge Cramer stated if he was staying on the bench he would confront Mr. Raschio about it. He did state he generally finds Mr. Raschio ethical.







**Grant & Harney County Trial Court Administrator Tammy Wheeler:**



Mr. Raschio continually complains to court staff about the judge's orders when they have no say. Mr. Raschio is dismissive of her, some of her court staff and other government agencies. Mr. Raschio talks down to all of them. It got to a point where she addressed the issues with Mr. Raschio. He blamed everyone else and became angry.

Mr. Raschio mistakenly sent an email to court staff that was only meant for his staff. The email consisted of a lot of swearing and anger towards the judge about a ruling. Mrs. Wheeler contacted Mr. Raschio about it and he did not apologize for sending it to the wrong people. Mr. Raschio stated that was how he interacts with his staff.

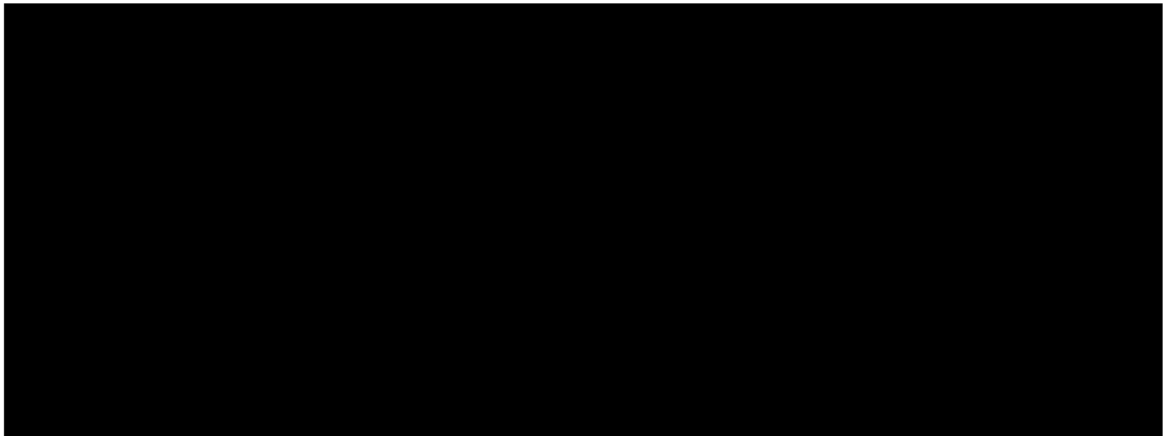
Mr. Raschio and a previous ADA for Harney County who is a female person of color, had a combative relationship. Mrs. Wheeler heard Mr. Raschio make statements about how that ADA's thinking must be impaired because of her gender and race. He referred to her gender and ethnic background as a hindrance.

In one instance, Mrs. Wheeler was needing jury instructions from Mr. Raschio and across the parking lot he yelled at her he won't have the "fucking instructions ready".

Mrs. Wheeler has conversed with his former staff who stated when he loses a motion or a trial he gets angry throws and kicks items.

Mrs. Wheeler feels based on her interactions with Mr. Raschio, he does not have the ability to listen and get along with all parties. She feels Mr. Raschio acts like a chameleon.

Mrs. Wheeler did state that if Mr. Raschio is appointed or elected she hopes he can rise to being a judge. Her and the court staff will give him all the support they can to help him be successful.





**CIVIL COURT RECORD:**

A records check did not reveal any civil action. An internet search on TLO revealed nothing of note.

**CREDIT RECORD:**

There are no concerns identified regarding Mr. Raschio credit record.

**AGENCY CHECK:**



**RESIDENCE CHECK:**

The residence is in an established neighborhood within John Day, Oregon. The neighborhood consists of older homes that are maintained. The single story residence is a large home, which is in good condition and well kept.

**NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASS:**

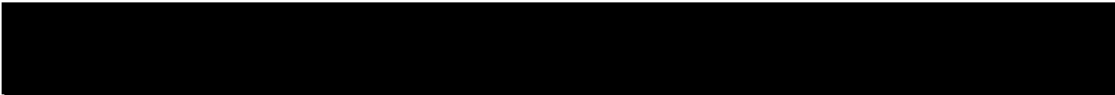
I conducted a neighborhood canvas and conversed with one of his neighbor's. The neighbor spoke very highly of Mr. Raschio and his family. The neighbor stated Mr. Raschio represented her brother in a criminal matter and forgot to have another county involved in the plea hearings in Grant. That caused her brother to be charged in the other county and convicted. She stated Mr. Raschio admitted it was his fault and she felt he was sincere.

**INTERNET AND SOCIAL NETWORKING CHECK:**

A Google name search for Mr. Raschio did not reveal any derogatory social media sites connected to his name. Mr. Raschio has a facebook, Instagram and

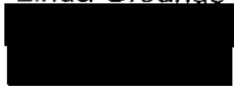
twitter accounts. During Mr. Raschio's social media review, I noticed posts/tweets that have not been consistent with other prior background reviews and they have been attached.

**CCH/LEDS/NCIC/DMV CHECK:**



**ATTACHED QUESTIONNAIRES:**

William Cramer  
Linda Grounds



Max Taggart  
Patrick Gregg



Tammy Wheeler  
Bobbe Hueckman



Justin Moorehouse  
Cleo McCluskey  
John Olson  
Kyra Rohner



**UNDEVELOPED LEADS:**

The allegation of taking up skirt photographs.

**DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE:**

Governor's Office researched this subject. Refer to the Governor's Office findings for further.

**OREGON STATE BAR:**

Governor's Office researched this subject. Refer to the Governor's Office findings for further.