

# FIRST GLANCE

## Prosecutor finalizes number of 'bad' cases

By BOB WATSON  
News Tribune

As a special prosecutor takes over the perjury case of former Cole County undercover Cpl. Michael Eisenberg, County Prosecutor Bill Tackett said the case has led to dropped charges in 18 cases.

"We've quietly gone over 150-plus cases" where Eisenberg was a witness, Tackett said this morning.

In cases where others also witnessed the crime, Tackett said, no changes were made.

In some cases where no other reports had been filed initially, other witnesses now have supplied information that prosecutors can rely on.

"We've been able to salvage some cases without compromising the ethics in our charging decisions," Tackett said. "We haven't cut any corners when it comes to our ethical obligations."

But that process left his office "with a definitive 18 cases" where Eisenberg was the only witness, Tackett said.

In those cases, three people already have been released from prison and one more person already has been released from probation.

Circuit Judge Thomas J. Brown III has scheduled a hearing later this month to release people from sentences in 14 other cases.

Tackett and his office was taken off the Eisenberg case because they may be witnesses in it — a potential conflict of interest.

Last week, Brown announced the prosecutor's job had been assigned to David Fry, a former Jackson County prosecutor now working in private practice.