

Letter to the editor: AMOS justice team stands behind its criticism of Polk County Attorney's Office

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Polk County Attorney John Sarcone accuses AMOS of distortion and grossly misleading people about juvenile justice in our county [[“Critics Misleading People Over Juveniles,” June 25](#)].

We stand by our comments.

They are based on a careful and objective study conducted by a branch of our state government, the Iowa Department of Human Rights.

The study included interviews with Mr. Sarcone, his Juvenile Bureau Chief Frank Severino, Juvenile Court Services and other members of the judiciary.

What’s more, our comments were based on dozens of interviews we’ve conducted with members of the judiciary, Juvenile Court Services, juvenile attorneys, the police department, parents, school officials and juvenile service providers, many of whom share our concerns.

— Rev. Dr. Brigitte Black, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Des Moines, and Rev. Dr. Denny Coon, Walnut Hills United Methodist Church, Urbandale, both members of the AMOS criminal justice leadership team