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**For Immediate Release: Dallas County District Attorney Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kids In Court Program alongside Community Partners**

**(Dallas, Texas)** - Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot, in collaboration with the National Council of Jewish Women Dallas (NCJW), Dallas Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC), and Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA), is proud to announce the 30th anniversary of the Kids In Court (KIC) program.

For three decades, Kids in Court has played a crucial role in supporting child victims and witnesses through the court process, making it a less intimidating and more empowering experience. Each session integrates volunteer experts from the District Attorney's and police offices, counselors, and members of NCJW, BACA, DCAC, and other partners.

"Kids in Court is a powerful example of what community partners can accomplish when working together. I am so proud to see the work done by NCJW Dallas, DCAC, BACA, and our Child Abuse Division in helping the youngest victims we serve," said District Attorney John Creuzot. "To all those who have volunteered and helped countless children over the past 30 years feel less anxious about facing their day in court, I say 'thank you.'"

During each Kids in Court session, younger children learn courtroom roles through role-play and interactive materials, while older ones converse with prosecutors and psychologists. Caregivers attend English or Spanish sessions to understand the process and discuss their concerns. Most children served have been victims of violent crimes, including sexual and physical abuse and child trafficking, or have witnessed violence against others. Kids in Court introduces them to the courtroom and explains the various roles involved in a trial in a fun, low-stress atmosphere, complete with pizza and a treat for the children. The goal is to provide a comfortable environment for discussion among families, prosecutors, and therapists.

"We are incredibly grateful to Dallas County District Attorney's Office, the National Council of Jewish Women of Greater Dallas, and Bikers Against Child Abuse for their partnership over the last 30 years and for making this program possible," said Irish Burch, President and CEO of Dallas Children's Advocacy Center. "Kids in Court is an invaluable opportunity for our clients to prepare for court, which is daunting for anyone, let alone a child. By demystifying the process, our kids and their families feel more confident knowing they have an army of people standing beside them during a vulnerable moment."

Founded in 1994 through the efforts of Paula Eilbott, Beverly Levy, and Paula Jacobs of NCJW Dallas, alongside the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Kids in Court has grown into a vital resource for children aged two to eighteen who must testify in court.

Elaine Stillman, President of NCJW Dallas, shared her experiences, "I volunteered for Kids in Court for almost fifteen years and looked forward to it every time. My usual job was taking a Polaroid of each child as he or she donned the judicial robe to play the Judge. It was fascinating for them as the picture came into focus. The look of pride on their faces was so uplifting. I loved bringing fun to the courtroom setting, hopefully decreasing the potential trauma of testifying in court for many kids."

At the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, 23 children and 24 teenagers, alongside their families, were in attendance.

The Kids in Court program stands as a beacon of hope and support for young victims and witnesses, transforming the courtroom experience into one of empowerment and understanding. As we celebrate this milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting and uplifting the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community.

ADA Summer Elmazi, Chief of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office Crimes Against Children Division said, "This program has served a critical purpose in Dallas County for the last three decades to alleviate the unknown as a child goes through the judicial process. Our office alongside all of the previously mentioned partners works as a cohesive unit to flank a child from front to back and side to side. This why Kids in Court has been such a successful program and will continue to be so in the years to come."