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Contact: Claire Crouch
Dallas County District Attorney's Office
214-653-3600 (Office)
Claire.Crouch@DallasCounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Lawsuit Filed Challenges AG Paxton's Expansive Reporting Rule Targeting Large DA's Offices

(DALLAS) – Today, the Dallas County District Attorney and other district and county attorneys filed a lawsuit challenging Attorney General Ken Paxton's expansive, improper, and unconstitutional administrative rule, adopted weeks ago, that imposes sweeping reporting requirements on only district and county attorneys' offices representing counties with a population of 400,000 or more.

AG Paxton does not have the authority to adopt this rule. And even if he did (and he does not), this rule serves only to impede justice in Dallas County and throughout the state of Texas. AG Paxton has admitted that he passed this rule, which applies primarily to Democrats, so he can "rein in" so-called "rogue" DAs. But AG Paxton should be working with *all* district and county attorneys in pursuit of justice, not picking fights with the Democrats in large cities. In adopting this rule, AG Paxton has violated the separation of powers between the executive branch (Attorney General) and the Judicial Branch (District Attorney). To make matters worse, the rule's extremely burdensome reporting requirements will cause district attorney's offices to divert resources and staff away from core prosecutorial roles and responsibilities, which harms public safety and the administration of justice. And it will cost Dallas County taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars or more to pay for the technology and resources needed to identify and produce all of the responsive information under these unnecessary reporting requirements.

We are seeking a ruling from the Texas courts declaring this rule invalid and halting this onerous unfunded mandate by the Attorney General, so that we can focus on protecting our communities, while maintaining the confidentiality of information we are sworn to protect.

We have no further comment. Please refer to the attached pleadings for more details.