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For Immediate Release: Texas Court of Appeals Affirms Final Judgment Declaring Attorney General Paxton's Prosecutor Reporting Rules Invalid

(DALLAS) – The Texas Fifteenth Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's final judgment in favor of Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot and two other Texas prosecutors, upholding a ruling that declares Attorney General Ken Paxton's prosecutor reporting rules invalid and permanently prohibits their enforcement.

In its October 1, 2026, memorandum opinion, the Court affirmed the Travis County district court's summary judgment, concluding that the Attorney General lacked the rule-making authority necessary to impose the reporting requirements under Texas Government Code Section 41.006. The appellate court relied on its prior determination that the statute does not grant the Attorney General express or implied authority to create such rules.

"This is another important victory for the rule of law and for the independence of locally elected prosecutors," said Dallas County Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot. "At every turn, the courts have repeatedly affirmed what we argued from the beginning: the Attorney General does not have the authority to create these sweeping reporting requirements. We have prevailed at every turn, and we will continue to stand up for the law, the responsibilities of this office and the people we serve."

The ruling follows the Court's December 2025 decision upholding a temporary injunction that blocked enforcement of the rules while the case proceeded through the trial court. With this latest decision, the Court has now affirmed the trial court's final judgement on the merits, including its declaration that the rules are invalid and its permanent injunction prohibiting their enforcement against the plaintiffs.

The reporting rules, adopted by Attorney General Paxton in early 2025 under Chapter 56 of Title 1 of the Texas Administrative Code, sought to require prosecutors in large counties to submit extensive data, internal policies, correspondence, and case files, including confidential victim and witness information such as child abuse files and pornography, among other sensitive materials. Not only did this raise concerns about the disclosure of confidential and legally protected information but would have also forced the diversion of critical prosecutorial resources. Failure to comply could have unlawfully exposed elected prosecutors to removal from office

To date, this litigation has cost Dallas County more than 227,000 dollars; costs that we expect Attorney General Paxton to oppose reimbursing even if we ultimately succeed on the merits of the case.

The Attorney General may now seek review of this latest ruling by the Texas Supreme Court.

This marks the second time¹ where John Creuzot, in his capacity as Dallas County Criminal District Attorney, has challenged unlawful actions by Attorney General Ken Paxton in court. In both cases, Creuzot and the other parties challenging the Attorney General's actions have prevailed.

¹ State of Texas v. Zena Collins Stephens, Court of Criminal Appeals Sept 28 2022, https://search.txcourts.gov/SearchMedia.aspx?MediaVersionID=07941a5e-5f59-4b7a-8970-9cf3d49f9c3e&coa=coscca&DT=REHEAR&MediaID=e163b3a2-b245-4544-8096-c5d3e28a82db&fbclid=IwAR2VfgDhrEyJOTNORG_7FWofpCqvd8dA5wV7DTmdMdaEIBYvnYmsXOzgDqk