



For Immediate Release

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Judge Jenkins Statement on O'Donnell v. Harris County

The O'Donnell decision from the extremely conservative Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals is not the roadmap for true reform of our bail system in Dallas County. It's the minimum standards below which we will be in violation of the law. Dallas County can do better.

True bail reform includes, among other things, the adoption of a scientifically based, race neutral, risk assessment tool and the adequate staffing of a robust pre-trial services division requested by our criminal court judges.

Understaffing the pre-trial services division will doom the program to failure and lead to false claims that only requiring families to scrape together bail money can ensure defendants return for court dates.