

McKinney, Tx
September 16, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

972-548-4330

One of the two current Collin County grand juries has requested the appointment of an *attorney pro tem*, sometimes referred to as a "special prosecutor" to investigate me and/or my assistants. That appointment has been made. I have not been informed of the subject of the investigation.

I assure everyone who knows me, and everyone I have served for almost thirty years as a district judge, an appellate judge, and as district attorney that I have never violated a public trust or any part of my oath of office. I have the utmost confidence that every person in my office has acted honorably and within the bounds of the law in the performance of their duties.

The selection of this grand jury by Judge Suzanne Wooten raised more than a few eyebrows among knowledgeable observers at the courthouse at the time, and this very action was expected when this grand jury was impaneled, given its make up.

My office and the Attorney General of Texas have been investigating Judge Wooten, as she has publicly stated many times, and two other persons for allegedly violating campaign election laws and other alleged criminal conduct when she ran for election as district judge in 2008. My office has since recused itself from the investigation, as is appropriate in these circumstances, and the Criminal Justice Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office has been appointed by a court to continue to investigate and, if necessary, prosecute any cases against Judge Wooten and others as the law and the facts may dictate.

Judge Wooten impaneled this grand jury. Among others he chose to name to this grand jury the father of the attorney who represents her in the criminal case my office had been, and the Attorney General is now, investigating. In addition, she chose two grand jurors who are local lawyers, one of whom was dismissed from employment in my office and another who has had both personal and professional conflicts with my office. One of those attorneys represents a indicted defendant in a very high profile public integrity case that my office is currently prosecuting.

In addition, Judge Wooten appointed a person who has some felony criminal problems, and who my office later managed to get disqualified, as a matter of law, from grand jury service. That disqualified person is very well acquainted with one of the lawyers on the grand jury.

There is much more to this story, and there are many other relationships among the players that I have not mentioned but will at the appropriate time. It is no wonder that I

have concerns about the integrity of the entire process in impaneling Judge Wooten's grand jury and its subsequent actions to date. I have served the justice system my entire professional life, but I have never seen anything quite like this.

I will have no other comment at this time.