



CRAIG WATKINS
CRIMINAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gloria James
214-653-3620 office
214-695-6323 mobile
gjames@dallascounty.org

District Attorney Craig Watkins Appoints Michael Ware as Special Assistant

(DALLAS – May 25, 2007) -- Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins has appointed Michael Ware of Fort Worth, Texas, to fill the new position of Special Assistant. The function of the Special Assistant will include overseeing conviction integrity, DNA, community prosecution, expunctions, public information, public integrity, evidence destruction, mental health, computer crimes, the appellate division and the federal division. The newly funded position and additional resources will aid the county's prosecutors in prosecuting criminals and further demonstrate the district attorney's commitment to conviction integrity.

"We are pleased to have Mike Ware join our team as Special Assistant," said DA. Watkins. "His expertise and professional experience are certain to be an asset to our justice system as we focus resources toward making sure we convict people who are indeed guilty of crimes committed and therefore, pose a threat to the safety and security of the citizens of Dallas County. Equally important, is the assurance that innocent people are not wrongfully imprisoned, and having Mr. Ware on board will help us in these critical areas."

The announcement of the Special Assistant coincides with the commencement of training sessions for Texas Wesleyan University School of Law students who are participating as volunteers in the Innocence Project of Texas. Mr. Ware, who has practiced law privately at his own law firm since 1984, is also an adjunct professor at Texas Wesleyan Law School where he serves as director of the Innocence Project of Texas, overseeing law students' review of more than 300 Dallas County cases to determine whether post-conviction DNA testing is warranted.

A graduate of the University Of Houston Law School where he earned a Juris Doctor degree, and the University of Texas at Austin where he earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy, Mr. Ware's distinguished career includes being selected in 2001 by the Best Lawyers in America to be included in the *Best Lawyers Consumer Guide*. Additionally, he is Board Certified in Criminal Law and is licensed to

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practice law by the United States Supreme Court, Supreme Court of Texas and State Bar of Texas among a host of other United States Courts of Appeals and District Courts within the state of Texas.

The Innocence Project of Texas is a consortium of independent projects from Texas Tech University, Texas Wesleyan, University of St. Thomas, University of Texas-Arlington, and the University of North Texas. These projects, through student volunteers, devote their time to investigating inmates' claims of actual innocence and working toward freedom for the wrongfully-convicted that would otherwise become lost in the criminal justice system.

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