

We, the members of the 380th District Court Grand Jury, July 2010 term, have completed our investigation of criminal activity originating in the Collin County District Attorney's Office (DAO): We are providing this summary as a report to the public.

Our investigation has been guided by our oath, which says in part: "You shall present no person from envy, hatred or malice; neither shall you leave any person unrepresented for love, fear, favor, affection or hope of reward; but you shall present things truly as they come to your knowledge, according to the best of your understanding, so help you God."

Our initial concern was the motivation of the DAO in its pursuit of investigations against elected officials. After reviewing documents and listening to the testimony of a dozen witnesses, our judgment is that all activities in the DAO have been carried out with the full knowledge of DA John Roach Sr.

Our specific findings are:

1. That the DAO has used its authority, and the grand jury system, to investigate marginal cases against individuals acting in both public and private capacities. These investigations have resulted in needless costs and no discernable benefit to the taxpayers of Collin County. The DAO has acted with seeming disregard for the personal, emotional, and financial costs to the individuals concerned.
2. When the DAO learned of our investigation, it took the following actions.
 - a. It ceased to present new cases to this grand jury.
 - b. It seated a third grand jury for the current term.
 - c. It re-presented all cases heard by this grand jury to the new grand jury, achieving no substantial difference in the decisions.

As with Point 1, these actions resulted in needless costs to the taxpayers of Collin County as well as personal, emotional, and financial costs to the defendants.

We further note that these actions were taken by the DAO after DA John Roach Sr. was present at the seating of the grand jury and declined, in open court, to challenge any member of it as unfit.

3. Elected officials do not have a minimum attendance standard. That said, DA John Roach Sr. has been absent at least one-third of the days normally worked by others in the Collin County Courthouse over the last several years. Our concern is that the DA is compensated by the State of Texas to discharge the duties of his office. We question whether any elected official can be effective with a record of extended absence.

Our goal in this investigation has been to fulfill our oath, which says, again in part: "you will diligently inquire into, and true presentment make, of all such matters and things as shall be given you in charge."

We urge those citizens who serve on grand juries in the future to reflect on their oath and remain watchful over their Collin County government.

Respectfully submitted,

The members of the 380th District Court Grand Jury, July 2010 term