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PRESS RELEASE

Federal Lawsuit Filed Against Nacogdoches County Officials for Illegally Recording Attorney-Client Jail Calls and Sharing Privileged Information

(Nacogdoches Texas, November 8th 2021) A Nacogdoches, Texas law firm, Paul Anderson, PLLC, has filed a federal lawsuit (here <u>9:21-cv-285</u>) in the Eastern District of Texas, Lufkin Division, against the County of Nacogdoches, Texas, Nacogdoches County Sheriff Jason Bridges, Nacogdoches County Attorney John Fleming and Nacogdoches County District Attorney Andrew Jones for illegally wiretapping attorney-client telephone conversations from the county jail and unlawfully sharing confidential information from those recorded calls with others.

Anderson was first alerted that privileged attorney-client phone calls were being recorded by the Sheriff's Office when the Nacogdoches County Attorney, John Fleming, disclosed in May of 2021 that a "non-lawyer employee" of the County Attorney's office had listened to a jail call between Paul Anderson and his client Brandon Finchum. Brandon Finchum is also a Plaintiff.

Nacogdoches attorney Paul Anderson says, "The lawsuit was filed in federal court after Nacogdoches County refused to provide copies or any other information about telephone calls recorded between attorneys and their clients in the Nacogdoches County jail." After months of evasion and ignored criminal complaints for wiretapping and misuse of official information, Anderson says attorneys for Nacogdoches County asked him for permission to listen to his recorded phone calls to determine which calls Paul Anderson were privileged. Anderson says the request by Nacogdoches County attorneys was "constitutionally absurd" because all attorneyclient calls are privileged.

Anderson claims in the lawsuit that information from those calls was illegally shared by Nacogdoches County District Attorney Andrew Jones with a non-lawyer employee of the County Attorney's Office. Anderson alleges sensitive information was used to interfere and tamper with witnesses in other civil corruption related lawsuits against the County of Nacogdoches.

Anderson's federal lawsuit seeks to prohibit Nacogdoches County from ever recording attorney-client telephone calls and from sharing non-exempt privileged information from any recorded phone calls. The lawsuit is also seeking a copy of every recording and logs made of communications between Paul Anderson and Brandon Finchum, statutory fines, punitive and actual damages, litigation expenses, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Paul Anderson is the principal attorney in a Nacogdoches, Texas civil rights law firm specializing in the civil prosecution of public corruption, fraud and law enforcement abuse. If you have information on this case or any matter involving official oppression, malicious prosecution, abuse of process, corruption, or public fraud, call 936-305-5600 or submit a confidential consultation request via the firm's website: <u>http://paulandersonlaw.com/page-6.html</u>.