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## PRESS RELEASE

## Nacogdoches Law Firm Files Third Lawsuit Exposing Unlicensed District Attorney

(Nacogdoches, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021) A Nacogdoches Texas law firm, Paul Anderson, PLLC, has filed a third lawsuit in Nacogdoches County District Court to have criminal records permanently sealed and expunged based on allegations the prosecutor, Assistant DA Andrew Jones, was an unlicensed attorney at the time of the conviction.

The Anderson firm represents at least three clients with lawsuits who accepted deals from the District Attorney's office in felony criminal cases that were negotiated by the then alleged Assistant District Attorney, Andrew Jones. Andrew Jones was recently sworn in as Nacogdoches County District Attorney.

The third lawsuit alleges that unlicensed Assistant District Attorney Andrew Jones signed a Felony Plea Agreement on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013 with Louis Skinner about a theft charge. The case was heard in the 420<sup>th</sup> District Court and a request has been made that the Court recuse itself because of a conflict of interest. Another lawsuit filed in the 420<sup>th</sup> and making the same allegations has been reassigned to Nathan Hecht, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The lawsuits can be found <u>here</u>, <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. District Court judges in both cases have recused themselves because of conflicts of interest.

After passing the Bar Exam, Jones was declared ineligible to practice law because he was then on probation for a DWI. However, Jones continued to represent that he was a "temporarily licensed attorney" from November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 until September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the date on which the State Bar of Texas website specifies Jones was *actually* licensed to practice law.

Jones prosecuted at least 32 felony cases during the period he was unlicensed, including the three lawsuits the Anderson firm is prosecuting. Mr. Anderson believes Jones' fraud voids any legal or judicial document Jones signed. "We do not accept checks bearing fraudulent signatures and we should certainly not accept felony court documents containing fraudulent signatures, either," says Anderson.

Jones claims that Anderson is going after him because of an election grudge. On the contrary, Anderson says Jones has repeatedly failed to prosecute a criminal theft case on behalf of a senior African American couple whom Anderson represents, and that Jones' misrepresentations came to light during repeated requests for the DA's office to prosecute that case.

Jones has stated publicly that, "Everybody knew I didn't have a license at the time, which is why I had a licensed attorney with me in the courtroom whenever I was doing anything on the record." Anderson says that after investigating Jones for more than a year, there are no court records, transcripts, or anyone willing to affirm that they "knew" Andrew Jones was an unlicensed attorney from November 2013 to September 2014, or that Jones was accompanied by then-District Attorney Nicole LoStracco in the courtroom during the cases at issue.

"There is no condition or situation that permits anyone to "temporarily practice law" once they are declared ineligible by the State Bar of Texas. Andrew Jones is saying that *everyone knew* he was breaking the law," Anderson says. "You wouldn't pay a speeding ticket if you found out it wasn't a real police officer that issued it, and I don't know of a single Court in the country that begins a hearing by asking whether the lawyers present, particularly those from the District Attorney's office, are licensed attorneys."

The documents filed in the case can be found <u>here</u>.

Paul Anderson is a Nacogdoches, Texas civil rights attorney specializing in public corruption and law enforcement abuse. If you have information on official oppression, malicious prosecution, or abuse of process, submit a consultation request via the firm's website: <u>http://paulandersonlaw.com/p age-6.html</u>.