



# DenverDA

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **JUDGE TOSSES ETHICS WATCH COMPLAINT**

A Denver District Court Judge today dismissed a petition by a political action group that calls itself “Colorado Ethics Watch” and found that an earlier decision by Denver District Attorney’s Office not to file criminal charges against certain state senators and state employees based on a Colorado Ethics Watch complaint was “well-grounded.”

(The group made allegations last year in a complaint to the Denver DA’s Office of criminal conduct against elected state legislators and state employees who work in the state legislature. After review and consideration of the allegations by the Denver DA’s Office, no charges were filed. The political action group then sought a court order in an attempt to compel a criminal prosecution.)

Judge Norman D. Haglund considered the court filings of the Denver District Attorney and Colorado Ethics Watch and determined a hearing on the matter was not necessary. The Court found that, contrary to claims made by Colorado Ethics Watch, the “[Denver District Attorney’s Office] has in fact investigated the allegations.” Judge Haglund held in his ruling that “...the Court is satisfied that the [Denver District Attorney’s Office] has fairly considered each alleged criminal offense raised by CEW, both those pertaining to the public interest generally and the one as to which CEW considers itself the particularized target.” “The Court concludes that [the decisions not to file criminal charges] are well-grounded, and no basis has been established by which this Court should intervene in the decision process of the Prosecuting Attorney.”

After denying the complaint by Colorado Ethics Watch, Judge Haglund dismissed the case.

A copy of the Court’s order is available on the Denver District Attorney’s website at:

[http://www.denverda.org/News\\_Release/Releases/2008%20Release/Ethics%20Watch%20Ruling%207-29-08.pdf](http://www.denverda.org/News_Release/Releases/2008%20Release/Ethics%20Watch%20Ruling%207-29-08.pdf)