



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2018

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Leading Criminal Justice Leaders Call On Kansas Officials To Fund Unit to Review Past Convictions and Correct Injustices

More Than 50 Current and Former Elected Prosecutors and Police Chiefs Rally Behind DA Mark Dupree's Efforts to Establish a Conviction Integrity Unit in Wyandotte County, Kansas

A group of 54 current and former elected prosecutors, state attorneys general, and law enforcement leaders banded together today to call on the Kansas City Board of Commissioners to take immediate action and release funding requested by District Attorney Mark Dupree for the creation of a Conviction Integrity Unit (CIU) in the Wyandotte County DA's Office. Already active in more than 30 jurisdictions, CIUs are a nationally recognized best practice for reviewing and addressing past convictions that raise concerns about the integrity of the justice system.

Calling out local law enforcement's "misguided" opposition to DA Dupree's proposal, current and former Police Chiefs and elected prosecutors from around the nation signed on to the letter explaining that "reviewing and correcting past injustices is squarely within the DA's role, and indeed his obligation." Signatories include **30 current elected DAs and State's Attorneys**, many of whom **have CIUs in their own offices**, such as **Eric Gonzalez** (Brooklyn, NY), **Kim Ogg** (Houston, TX), **Kim Foxx** (Chicago, IL), **Cy Vance** (New York, NY) and **Jeff Rosen** (San Jose, CA), **current and former state attorneys general** including **AG Karl Racine** (District of Columbia) and **Former AG Jim Petro** (State of Ohio), and **a dozen current and former police chiefs/commissioners and Sheriffs** including **Chief Chris Magnus** (Tucson, AZ), **Chief Sylvia Moir** (Tempe, AZ), **Chief Tim Lentz** (Covington, Louisiana) and **Commissioner Branville Bard** (Cambridge, MA).

DA Dupree recently announced plans to establish a CIU to formalize a review process for credible claims of innocence or official misconduct in past cases—200 such claims have already been received by his office. The impetus for this unit was DA Dupree's months-long examination of a high-profile case that led to the exoneration of Lamonte McIntyre, a teenager who spent 23 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit. A CIU would speed up the

processing of other cases raising similar concerns about past injustices. As the letter notes: “victims are safer—and we prevent further victimization—when communities trust that their law enforcement officials seek the truth rather than a ‘win.’”

Local law enforcement leaders in Kansas have rallied against Dupree’s efforts – opposition that has stalled funding for the unit. The Kansas City Board of Commissioners will decide as early as this week whether to release funds for the CIU, as requested by DA Dupree.

“Anyone who cares about fairness and public safety should support efforts to correct the mistakes made by our justice system,” said **Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of [Fair and Just Prosecution](#)**, a national network of elected prosecutors committed to change and innovation that organized the letter. “A prosecutor’s core responsibility is the pursuit of justice and truth in every case. Allowing injustices to continue erodes public trust in the rule of law, which is the bedrock of our criminal justice system.”

“CIUs are an increasingly common way for prosecutors, who have an ethical obligation to remedy instances of injustice, to review not only claims of innocence, but also of law enforcement misconduct or due process violations,” said **District Attorney Jeff Rosen**, a signatory on the letter and one of the first DAs to establish a CIU. “Our CIU has been instrumental in identifying and guarding against miscarriages of justice and promoting enhanced accountability and transparency.”

According to the [National Registry of Exonerations](#), there have been more than 2,240 exonerations since 1989, when the advent of DNA technology opened a new door for proving innocence.

“We should applaud prosecutors’ efforts to re-examine cases where the integrity of a conviction is at issue and recognize that everyone in our justice system bears the responsibility for a miscarriage of justice,” said **Police Chief Chris Magnus**. “That is why I have joined dozens of law enforcement leaders in voicing support for DA Dupree’s efforts to deliver a more fair justice system and promote a safer community.”

The full statement is available [here](#).

LIST OF SIGNATORIES

Aramis Ayala

State Attorney, 9th Judicial Circuit, Florida

Branville Bard

Commissioner, Cambridge, Massachusetts Police Department

Diana Becton

District Attorney, Contra Costa County, California

Sherry Boston

District Attorney, DeKalb County, Georgia

Joseph Brann

Former Chief, Hayward, California Police Department

Former Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice

Scott Colom

District Attorney, Sixteenth Circuit, Mississippi

Brendan Cox

Former Chief, Albany, New York Police Department

Michael Dougherty

District Attorney, 20th Judicial District, Colorado

Kimberly Foxx

State's Attorney, Cook County, Illinois

Kimberly Gardner

Circuit Attorney, City of St. Louis, Missouri

Sarah F. George

State's Attorney, Chittenden County, Vermont

Sim Gill

District Attorney, Salt Lake County, Utah

Eric Gonzalez

District Attorney, Kings County, New York

Mark Gonzalez

District Attorney, Nueces County, Texas

Christian Gossett

District Attorney, Winnebago County, Wisconsin

Robert J. Hoffman

Former Chief, Plainfield, Connecticut Police Department

John Hummel

District Attorney, Deschutes County, Oregon

Lawrence S. Krasner

District Attorney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

William Lansdowne

Former Chief, San Diego, California Police Department
Former Chief, San Jose, California Police Department
Former Chief, Richmond, California Police Department

Tim Lentz

Chief, Covington, Louisiana Police Department

Chris Magnus

Chief, Tucson, Arizona Police Department

James Manfre

Former Sheriff, Flager County, Florida

Beth McCann

District Attorney, 2nd Judicial District, Colorado

Kenneth Mighell

Former U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Texas

Sylvia Moir

Chief, Tempe, Arizona Police Department

Stephanie N. Morales

Commonwealth's Attorney, Portsmouth, Virginia

Marilyn J. Mosby

State's Attorney, Baltimore City, Maryland

Melissa W. Nelson

State Attorney, 4th Judicial Circuit, Florida

Jerome O'Neill

Former Acting U.S. Attorney, District of Vermont
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Vermont

Kim Ogg

District Attorney, Harris County, Texas

Jim Petro

Former Attorney General, State of Ohio

Channing Phillips

Former U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia
Former Senior Counselor to the Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
Former Deputy Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

Richard Pocker

Former U.S. Attorney, District of Nevada
Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Nevada

Karl Racine

Attorney General, District of Columbia

Ira Reiner

Former District Attorney, Los Angeles County, California
Former City Attorney, Los Angeles, California

Jeff Rosen

District Attorney, Santa Clara County, California

Marian Ryan

District Attorney, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

Tori Verber Salazar

District Attorney, San Joaquin County, California

Dan Satterberg

Prosecuting Attorney, King County, Washington

Ronal Serpas

Co-Chairman, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration
Former Superintendent, New Orleans, Louisiana Police Department
Former Chief, Metropolitan Nashville, Tennessee Police Department
Former Chief, Washington State Patrol

Carol A. Siemon

Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County, Michigan

Mark Spawn

Former Chief, Fulton, New York Police Department

Norm Stamper

Former Chief, Seattle, Washington Police Department

Darrel Stephens

Former Chief, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina Police Department

Carter Stewart

Former U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Ohio

David Sullivan

District Attorney, Northwestern District, Massachusetts

Betty Taylor

Former Chief, Winfield, Missouri Police Department

Raúl Torrez

District Attorney, Bernalillo County, New Mexico

Cyrus R. Vance Jr.

District Attorney, New York County, New York

Andrew Warren

State Attorney, 13th Judicial Circuit, Florida

Lynneice O. Washington

District Attorney, 10th Judicial Circuit, Alabama

Roy L. Austin

Former Deputy Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, Justice and Opportunity, White House Domestic Policy Council

Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Columbia

Chiraag Bains

Former Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Former Trial Attorney, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Miriam Aroni Krinsky

Executive Director, Fair and Just Prosecution

Former Assistant U.S. Attorney, Central District of California

Former Criminal Appellate Chief and Chief, General Crimes, Central District of California

Former Chair, Solicitor General's Criminal Appellate Advisory Group

Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit www.fairandjustprosecution.org or follow us on Facebook [@FairAndJustProsecution](https://www.facebook.com/FairAndJustProsecution).