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TCDLA founded in 1971

Re: Waco Biker Cases

Dear McLennan County Grand Jury, District Judge Ralph Strother, and District Attorney Abel Reyna:

I write this letter on behalf of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA) as its current President. TCDLA is composed of over 3,200 members, many of whom are former judges and prosecutors.

TCDLA has grown increasingly concerned about some of the processes in place during this case since the events of May 17, 2015. Most recently, TCDLA learned through media releases that a grand jury was seated in McLennan County and a Waco Police Detective was seated as the foreman of the grand jury. While we express no opinion as to Detective James Head's personal ethics or integrity, we are greatly concerned that this grand jury should under no circumstances be the grand jury that considers indictments in the biker cases, especially since there are reports that he had some involvement in the investigatory process. TCDLA urges you to consider for this case a special grand jury that contains no members of law enforcement who are involved in the biker cases.

TCDLA and the general public are watching the events in Waco with great interest. TCDLA hopes that those like you, in particular positions of power to shape the fairness of the process, take every measure to ensure fairness and the strict adherence to due process. The composition of the grand jury considering indictments is one of those early decisions that will not only shape perceptions but will also play a key role in seeing that justice is done in these cases.

Thank you.

**Sam Bassett**  
President  
TCDLA