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Appealing the Crystal Mason Ruling

(Fort Worth, TX) – The Tarrant County District Attorney's Office today asked the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to reverse a recent ruling overturning Crystal Mason's illegal voting conviction.

The trial court's guilty verdict should be affirmed. Voting is a cornerstone of our democracy. This office will protect the ballot box from fraudsters who think our laws don't apply to them.

Crystal Mason, a four-time felon, was convicted of illegal voting on March 28, 2018 in a bench trial in the 432nd Judicial District Court.

She was convicted based on testimony from the election judge and poll clerk that she read the provisional voter affidavit, affirmed that she provided accurate information, signed the affidavit, and testified that the affidavit language was clearly understandable to mean that a convicted felon, such as herself, was ineligible to vote.

On March 28, 2024, the Second Court of Appeals reversed her conviction and published an opinion stating that there was evidence showing Mason may not have known she was ineligible to vote on the day she voted.

The Second Court of Appeals failed to give proper deference to the trial court's guilty verdict and reweighed the evidence in favor of Mason.

The Second Court of Appeals misapplied the sufficiency standard of review by not viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the trial court's verdict – in contravention to binding precedent from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The Second Court of Appeals' publication of its opinion creates the very real risk that future sufficiency cases will likewise be wrongly analyzed and decided.

This office requests that the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals grant review in this case, reverse the Second Court of Appeals' decision, and affirm the trial court's guilty verdict.