



DAVID W. PRATER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

SCOTT ROWLAND
FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PRESS STATEMENT BY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY DAVID W. PRATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

On March 15, 2012, an Oklahoma County jury convicted Billy Thompson of 1st Degree Murder at the conclusion of a trial held before the Honorable Donald Deason. The next day, I discovered that a potentially exculpatory statement made to Assistant District Attorneys Pam Kimbrough and Stephanie Miller by a witness to the original crime was not disclosed to defense counsel.

Within minutes of learning of the nondisclosure, I contacted Chief Public Defender, Robert Ravitz to notify him of the allegations. To ensure the integrity of our investigation into the alleged ethical violations of the ADAs, I invited Mr. Ravitz to jointly investigate the allegations. He accepted.

The joint investigation confirmed that the witness did make a statement to the assistant district attorneys that was materially inconsistent to his original statement made to the Oklahoma City Police Department. The substance of the inconsistent statement was not disclosed to defense counsel. The assistant district attorneys allowed defense counsel to stipulate to the witness's testimony without including the subsequent inconsistent statement. Finally, in their closing arguments, the assistant district attorneys argued that the witness's stipulated testimony corroborated other trial testimony.

Prosecutors must be different than any other type of attorney. We are not simply advocates, but are charged with a ministerial duty within the criminal justice system. We are duty-bound to seek justice, period. That duty includes protecting the constitutional and substantive rights of criminal suspects and criminal defendants. We must never abrogate that duty to the justice system we are privileged to serve.

To protect the integrity of this office, its dedicated employees and most importantly, our justice system, I have taken swift and definitive action. Pam Kimbrough and Stephanie Miller were terminated last Thursday. Though I am heart-broken over their loss to this office, my decision to

terminate them was an easy decision to make. The gravity of their alleged ethical violation is so great that only one punishment equals their transgression. Additionally, I am forwarding our investigation to the Oklahoma Bar Association and the Oklahoma Attorney General's office to assign a special prosecutor to evaluate the investigation for possible criminal violations.

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