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Press Release

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2016

Galveston DA Jack Roady receives State Bar Prosecutor of the Year Award

GALVESTON – Galveston County Criminal District Attorney Jack Roady has been named the 2016 Prosecutor of the Year by the State Bar of Texas Criminal Justice Section. The award was presented to Roady this afternoon at the Texas District and County Attorney Association's Annual Criminal and Civil Law Update on Galveston Island.

Roady was honored in part for the leadership role he has played in addressing issues surrounding the developing science of mixture DNA forensic analysis. "When Jack learned of problems with the analysis of a DNA case in his jurisdiction, he didn't just fix his case and move on," said Bernard Ammerman, TDCAA's President. "Jack jumped in at the state level and was instrumental in helping to develop procedures for reanalysis of questioned DNA tests so that the public and defendants could be confident the labs are getting it right."

The issue with mixture DNA--a sample containing DNA from more than one person--was identified two years ago when Roady sought retesting of some evidence. When the lab applied new standards recommended by scientists, the result was very different from results under the old standards. That has since led to the state developing a system to notify people who were convicted at least in part because of mixture DNA evidence under the old standards and to determine if new analysis is justified. That process is ongoing at this time.



"Because of Jack's leadership, Texas is at the forefront of resolving the DNA mixture issue, which is a national issue," said TDCAA Executive Director Rob Kepple. "In conjunction with the Texas Forensic Science Commission and the criminal defense bar, Jack worked to get a statewide review and notification system developed. Once again, Texas is leading the way because of Jack's dedication to justice and getting it right."



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Roady was also in the national news recently with his office's indictment of William Lewis Reece for the 1997 murders of Laura Smither and Jessica Cain, following a lengthy investigation that resulted in finding the remains of Cain in a Houston field.

"I count it a privilege to serve in a profession where our highest duty is simply to do the right thing -- to see that justice is done," Roady stated when he learned of the award. "As the standards of forensic science are rising, so also are the standards that drive our profession. I'm very grateful to my colleagues for this honor. They press hard to maintain those standards, and I'm glad to be counted among their ranks."



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