

Belinda Hill
First Assistant



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HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
DEVON ANDERSON

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Dan Simons
FROM: Belinda Hill
SUBJECT: Disciplinary Hearing
DATE: October 4, 2016
CC:

The Disciplinary Committee met on October 3, 2016, to consider the allegation that you instructed Assistant District Attorney Chauntelle Wood to tell the defense attorney in a case set for trial on August 8, 2016, that the complaining witness was present and ready to testify, although she was not, to see if the defendant would take a plea.

You appeared at the hearing and strenuously denied the allegation and any possibility of a misunderstanding. The Disciplinary Committee, after hearing from you and ADA Wood and considering all of the information presented, concluded that there was not sufficient evidence to determine that you engaged in any misconduct, and so the matter is closed and no disciplinary action will be taken.

However, this office takes such allegations seriously. Your reputation as an honest and ethical lawyer is of utmost importance to this office and to you. It appears to me that, regardless of the merits of the allegations, ADA Wood believed that you instructed her to do something unethical. In my judgment, you must exercise greater care in your communication with those who you are supervising, particularly with regard to how to handle ethical issues when they arise. To that end, I am requiring you to watch the TDCAA Online Course titled "A Prosecutor Roundtable: Prosecutors and the Search for Truth" and to briefly summarize it in a memo to me. Please do so by October 21, 2016.