



Contact

For Immediate Release

Mark Hanna
512-326-7616

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Dallas County Assistant District Attorney Honored

Kyson Johnson, a special assistant in the specialized crime division of the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, has been named Prosecutor of the Year by A Texas Advisory Council on Arson (ATAC). Johnson's work in fighting cases of arson and insurance fraud was viewed as unsurpassed in Texas.

Johnson received the award in ceremonies held in Austin last week at the 53rd Annual Texas Fire and Arson Investigators Seminar. David Mitchell, ATAC president and regional claims manager for the Republic Group, presented the award to Johnson.

Johnson holds the distinction of becoming the first prosecutor from the Texas Department of Insurance's Fraud Unit to work for a district attorney in the fight against insurance fraud.

Johnson returned to Texas from an Army tour of Iraq. In his first three months with the Dallas County District Attorney's office, Johnson presented 24 cases for indictment dealing with insurance fraud, theft and securing execution of a document by deception.

In 2007, Johnson garnered 52 indictments, 34 convictions, \$54,000 in fines and \$641,000 in restitution.

His most notable case in 2007 dealt with a staged accident ring where he successfully convicted all nine defendants who had staged 72 automobile accidents in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and had defrauded 21 insurance companies.

Johnson's convictions also made the Texas Department of Insurance's Top 10 cases with his prosecution in 2007 of insurance agent Larry Crenshaw. Crenshaw was convicted on theft charges for taking money from policyholders. Crenshaw was ordered to refund his clients \$202,000 and spend his next two years behind bars.

In his past three years in the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Johnson has returned 148 indictments, 91 convictions, \$117,000 in fines and \$3.6 million in restitution.

ATAC has approximately 200 members that include fire, police, industrial and insurance representatives. ATAC funds the Arson Hotline whose calls are answered seven days a week, 24-hours a day and every caller remains anonymous. Calls that lead to legitimate arrests may result in a reward. The Arson Hotline number is 1-877-4-FIRE-45 (1-877-434-7345).

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) provides the administrative support in keeping ATAC operational on a daily basis. ICT staff members also publish and distribute the ATAC newsletter and work closely with the State Fire Marshal's Office in responding to calls from the Arson Hotline. For additional information about ATAC, go to its Web site at ataconarson.org.

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