

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE from

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Wednesday, May 20, 2015
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SHAW APPOINTMENT RECEIVES SENATE APPROVAL

Chief of CDA Juvenile Unit is Appointed to Texas Juvenile Justice Dept. Board of Directors

(Tarrant County, TX) — Assistant Criminal District Attorney Riley Shaw was confirmed by the Texas Senate this week for appointment to the [Texas Juvenile Justice Department's](#) Board of Directors. Shaw, one of the State's leading legal experts on juvenile issues, is the Chief of the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's Juvenile Unit.

The Texas Juvenile Justice Department was created in 2011, absorbing the responsibilities of both the former Texas Juvenile Probation Commission and former Texas Youth Commission to create a unified juvenile justice agency. Its mission is to provide and promote public safety by creating programs and community partnerships designed to hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, while rehabilitating their behavior to encourage a successful future. In Texas, a "juvenile" is defined as a person who was at least 10 years of age, but not yet 17 at the time he or she committed an act defined as "delinquent conduct" or "conduct in need of supervision."

"Many people don't realize the intricate legal differences between the adult and juvenile justice systems, beyond the obvious age parameters," said CDA Sharen Wilson. "Riley has committed himself to understanding those nuances, and advancing awareness of the ever-changing factors that contribute to both a juvenile offender's past indiscretions and future potential. The Board is lucky to have his counsel."

Shaw has been with the Tarrant County CDA's office since 1999, following five years in the private sector. He is the Chair-Elect of the State Bar's Juvenile Law Section, and a member of the Governor's Advisory Board for the Texas Violent Gang Task Force. He received the *Oscar A. Sherrell Award* from the Texas District and County Attorneys Association in 2007, the same year he was named a Top Criminal Attorney by *Fort Worth, Texas* magazine.

"I am honored by this opportunity to serve the great State of Texas," said Shaw. "I look forward to collaborating with Governor Abbott, the Texas Legislature, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and our local communities as we seek solutions that keep our citizens safe and provide a bright future for all of our youth."

Shaw is a graduate of Texas Tech University and its School of Law. His term on the TJJD Board runs until February 1, 2017.

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