



# Sharen Wilson Criminal District Attorney



## For Immediate Release

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## Potential new trial for Randy Halprin

(Fort Worth, TX) – This office was appointed in 2020 to represent the state regarding a writ application in the case of Randy Halprin, one of the notorious "Texas 7" gang.

The gang escaped the Connally Unit in South Texas in 2000 and went on a crime spree that included the fatal shooting of Irving Police Officer Aubrey Hawkins, who died on Christmas Eve.

Halprin was convicted and sentenced to death in 2003.

Now, nearly two decades later, his attorneys seek a new trial for Halprin, saying the judge in the case, Vickers Cunningham, was biased against Halprin because he is Jewish.

Based on new testimony at a hearing conducted last month, this office agrees.

Testimony from the judge's brother, Bill Cunningham, showed that at the time of trial, the judge referred to Halprin and his co-defendants as "the Mexican, the queer, and the Jew." In addition, two lifelong family friends testified that in the years following the trial, the judge called Halprin "Randy the Jew" and "Jew Halprin," among other slurs. These and other epithets were "clearly derogatory" and show "actual bias" against Halprin during his trial because he is Jewish.

While this office's agreement is an important step toward Halprin being granted a new trial, ultimately, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals will have to make that decision. If the Court of Criminal Appeals grants Halprin relief, this office's appointment to the writ procedure will be concluded. The case will return to Dallas County for further prosecution.

The Dallas County Criminal District Attorney's Office was recused only from this portion of Halprin's legal proceedings.

Included with this release is a copy of the document filed by this office.