

**STATE OF TEXAS**

**RESOLUTION**

**of the**

**TEXAS JUDICIAL COUNCIL**

**In Support of the Recommendations of the Timothy Cole Exoneration Review Commission**

WHEREAS, the Texas Judicial Council is the policymaking body for the Texas Judicial Branch, created under Chapter 71, Texas Government Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council is charged with improving the administration of justice; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Cole was convicted of rape in 1986 and sentenced to 25 years in prison for a crime he did not commit; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Cole died in prison in 1999 of asthma complications while serving his sentence for rape; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Cole was posthumously exonerated in 2009 through DNA evidence and was pardoned by the governor in 2010; and

WHEREAS, there have been over 150 exonerations of individuals convicted in Texas of crimes of which they did not commit; and

WHEREAS, the 84<sup>th</sup> Legislature established the Timothy Cole Exoneration Review Commission and placed it under the Texas Judicial Council; and

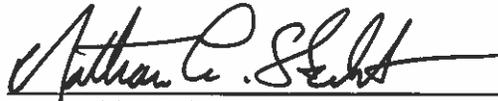
WHEREAS, the Commission was charged to “review cases in the State of Texas in which an innocent defendant was convicted of a crime and then, on or after January 1, 2010, was exonerated; consider potential implementation plans, costs, cost savings, and the impact on the criminal justice system for each potential solution identified through the work of the commission; and review and update the research, report, and recommendations of the Timothy Cole Advisory Panel on Wrongful Convictions established by the 81st Legislature;” and

WHEREAS, the Commission has studied the reasons for exonerations in Texas since 2010 and has made recommendations to improve the criminal justice system to prevent wrongful convictions; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is expected to make final recommendations to:

1. Electronically record interrogations in felony cases;
2. Institute regulations on jailhouse informant testimony;
3. Improve procedures associated with eyewitness identifications; and
4. Improve drug testing protocols for field tests and crime lab tests.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Judicial Council supports the recommendations of the Timothy Cole Exoneration Review Commission and urges the Legislature to approve the recommendations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan L. Hecht", written over a horizontal line.

Honorable Nathan L. Hecht  
Chair, Texas Judicial Council

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