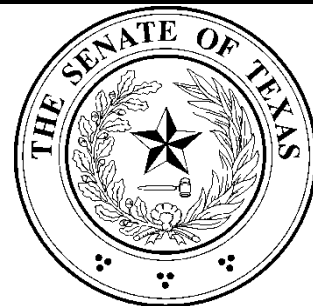


SENATOR
JOHN WHITMIRE
DISTRICT 15
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Harris County District Attorney Pat Lykos to appear before Senate Criminal Justice Committee Interim Hearing on Crime Labs

AUSTIN, Texas -- Senator John Whitmire (D-Houston) announced today that Harris County District Attorney Pat Lykos will provide information and testimony during the September 7, 2010 Senate Criminal Justice interim hearing beginning at 10 AM in E1.016 of the Capital Extension.

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst assigned the Senate Criminal Justice Committee a series of issues to study and make recommendations for the upcoming legislative session. The hearing will be conducted on interim charge six which asks the Committee to:

Study and make recommendations to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of testing done in Texas forensic laboratories, including DNA and blood/alcohol testing. Assess and make recommendations for improving the capacity of Texas criminal laboratories to process evidence, identify ways to reduce the backlog of DNA evidence processing, identify ways to encourage qualified applicants for crime lab jobs, ensure adequate training for new crime lab technicians, ensure the availability of efficient crime lab processing to all regions of the state, and determine the impact of additional collection requirements on the capacity of Texas crime labs to process evidence. Consider the costs and benefits of creating a statewide crime lab.

"Judge Lykos has a vision of how crime lab services should be provided, re-establishing credibility and ensuring integrity for the Harris County Criminal Justice system," stated Senator Whitmire. "We look forward to her sharing her ideas and expertise, which I believe may help us create a statewide model for operating crime labs in Texas," the Senator added.

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