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**Contact:** Abby E. Dozier  
Communications Specialist  
PH: 817.212.4061

## Law School Alum Named Newsmaker of the Year

**FORT WORTH, Texas** - Texas Wesleyan University School of Law alumnus Craig Watkins '94, district attorney of Dallas County, has been named the newsmaker of the year by *Dallas Weekly*.

In its January 3 issue, *Dallas Weekly* recognized Watkins as newsmaker of the year for 2007 "for stepping up to the plate and rising to the occasion" on issues surrounding crime and conviction in Dallas County.

Watkins has received national and international attention during his first year in office, with much of the spotlight falling on the high number of exonerations of wrongfully convicted inmates in Dallas County. Since 2001, 15 inmates have been freed in Dallas County as the result of DNA testing, the highest number of any county nationwide.

Since taking office in January 2007, Watkins has partnered with the Innocence Project of Texas to review more than 400 old cases with claims of innocence, some of which had previously been denied DNA testing under previous administration. Watkins' office also established a conviction integrity unit to help ensure that wrongful convictions do not continue. Earlier this year he appointed Michael Ware, former Texas Wesleyan law school adjunct professor and director of the Wesleyan Innocence Project, as the head of the unit.

Watkins was a member of the first class to graduate from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law in 1994.

Read the *Dallas Weekly* story [here](#).

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