FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 20, 2026

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District Attorney-Elect Justice Luz Elena Chapa Announces Transition and Leadership Teams

BEXAR COUNTY, TX — Bexar County Criminal District Attorney-Elect Justice Luz Elena Chapa today announced her transition and leadership team as she prepares to take office on January 1, 2027, following her historic election as the first Latina to serve as Bexar County Criminal District Attorney.

The transition team will work closely with the current District Attorney's administration, county officials, community stakeholders, law enforcement partners, and members of the legal community to ensure a smooth transfer of leadership at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office.

"From the outset of my candidacy, my commitment has been to place victims first, restore public trust, and ensure that justice is swift, sure, and fair," said District Attorney-Elect Justice Chapa. "I am realigning the District Attorney's office to meet its current demands and in direct response to the community's needs, especially with respect to domestic violence and mental health. As I prepare to assume office, I am honored to announce my transition team and their leadership roles once I assume office; my team and I are committed to working hard toward a smooth and seamless transition in partnership with the current administration. I personally thank the dedicated public servants who have been carrying out this important work every day; I look forward to earning their trust as the newly elected District Attorney and fostering a workplace culture built on respect, collaboration, accountability, and professionalism."

The transition team includes: Hon. Ina Minjarez, Amy Perry, Kathleen Vale, Judge Joey Contreras, Tamara Strauch, Jeff Mulliner, Christian Neumann, Kristen Mulliner, Maritza Perez-Stewart, Clayton Hayden, Nathan Morey, Judge Ben Robertson, Lauren Glasscock, Austin Stout, Brandon Crowder, Drew Marks, and Cole Ryan Bowles.

Hon. Ina Minjarez will serve as First Assistant. Minjarez is an attorney and former Texas State Representative with more than 26 years of experience in law and public service. Her career reflects a distinguished record of legal advocacy, legislative leadership, and a longstanding commitment to public policy and community advancement. Licensed to practice law in 2000, she began her legal career as a prosecutor with the Bexar County District Attorney's Office before transitioning into private practice, where she represented clients in criminal defense, employment law, and child welfare proceedings, while also advising small businesses on legal and operational issues. Her legal work has also encompassed civil litigation. Throughout her career, she has developed a strong

understanding of the legal system, courtroom advocacy, and the complexities of public policy. Minjarez later brought her legal and public service experience to the Texas House of Representatives, where she represented House District 124 in Bexar County. During her tenure, she held leadership positions on key legislative committees and championed legislation addressing public safety, criminal justice, and the protection of children. Among her notable legislative accomplishments was sponsoring David's Law, landmark legislation addressing cyberbullying. Her legislative leadership was recognized by Texas Monthly, which named her "Rookie of the Year" following her first full legislative session. Drawing upon her experience as a prosecutor, courtroom advocate, private practitioner, and legislator, she brings a comprehensive perspective to the justice system and a sustained commitment to public safety and community well-being. Beyond her professional responsibilities, she remains actively engaged in community service. Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, Minjarez holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law.

Amy Perry will serve as Chief Administrative Officer. Perry served as Executive Vice President-Strategic Development & General Counsel of NuStar Energy L.P., which was a publicly traded midstream logistics company headquartered in San Antonio, Texas prior to its acquisition in May 2024. In her role with NuStar, Perry led NuStar's strategic planning, investor relations, corporate development, and capital project development, as well as NuStar's legal department, and she also served as NuStar's Governance, Ethics & Compliance Officer. Prior to joining NuStar, Perry served as Counsel Corporate Law for Valero Energy Corporation. Prior to Valero, she practiced corporate, mergers and acquisitions and securities law at DLA Piper in New York City and at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Austin, Texas. Perry holds a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology major/Journalism minor, Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude) and a Master of Art (Sociology) from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she also worked as a Research Assistant performing multidisciplinary quantitative research, and a Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law. Perry is active in the San Antonio community. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas, and she has previously served on the Boards of The Winston School of San Antonio, Clarity Child Guidance Center, Guardian House, the San Antonio Humane Society, and the Witte Museum. She also provided pro bono legal support, including serving as its Corporate Secretary, for Haven for Hope of Bexar County, a homeless transformation campus in San Antonio.

Kathleen Vale will serve as Chief of Executive Operations. Vale is an experienced Texas government executive and public-service professional with an extensive background in executive administration, legislative affairs, public policy, strategic planning, and government operations. Throughout her career, she has held leadership positions with the Texas General Land Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, overseeing multimillion-dollar budgets, statewide initiatives, personnel, and complex administrative programs. Her extensive experience includes policy development, legislative analysis, public information compliance, grant administration, workforce leadership, and stakeholder engagement. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Vale has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to civic engagement and community service. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Bexar

County Elections and Voter Engagement Advisory Board and has served on the City of San Antonio Mayor's Commission on Voting. Her community involvement also includes service on numerous advisory boards and civic organizations focused on public participation, education, and community development. Vale earned her Bachelor of Arts in English, with a minor in Government, from the University of Texas at Austin and completed executive leadership and management development programs through the university's Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Judge Joey Contreras will serve as Senior Litigation Counsel. Contreras has practiced criminal law for thirty-eight years. He is a 1985 graduate of Cornell University, where he studied labor economics. His academic achievements at Cornell were recognized with multiple awards. He earned his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law in 1988, where he received honors in Constitutional Law, Evidence, Criminal Procedure, and Advanced Criminal Law. He began his legal career as an Assistant District Attorney and served twelve years as a state prosecutor. He has extensive state jury trial experience, including a high-volume of murder and capital murder cases. He capped his career as a state prosecutor by serving as a chief for the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's office. He served eighteen years as a federal prosecutor, where he focused on complex gang and drug prosecutions. He handled hundreds of federal cases and was twice awarded the James DeAtley Award for successful jury trial of an exceptionally complex, difficult, or significant case. Contreras served as Chief of Major Crimes where he supervised the federal prosecution of drug cases, violent crimes, organized crime, gang members, gun cases, and child exploitation cases. He has served as a district court judge and a defense attorney.

Tamara Strauch will serve as Litigation Counsel. Strauch began her career in the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office as a law student intern in 1992. Upon graduation from St. Mary's School of Law and subsequent licensure, she began full-time work as a prosecutor in the office in 1994. Over the course of more than 30 years serving as a Bexar County prosecutor, she has worked for four district attorney administrations and has tried cases ranging from misdemeanors to death penalty capital murder cases. Ms. Strauch has previously served as Major Crimes Chief, DWI Task Force Chief, Public Integrity & Cyber Crimes Chief, and twice served as Criminal Trial Division Chief. She is currently the First Assistant at the District Attorney's Office.

Jeff Mulliner will serve as Felony Chief of Criminal Trial Division. Mulliner is a time-tested trial lawyer, who has spent thirty-three years in the pursuit of justice in South Texas state and federal courthouses, one case at a time, from both sides of the aisle. Mulliner received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Baylor University followed by a Juris Doctor from St. Mary's University School of Law. Mulliner was hired by the Bexar County District Attorney's Office as an Intern during law school and hired as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney following the bar exam. Mulliner rose rapidly within the Office to become a First Chair Felony Prosecutor and during his decade-long tenure, was lead prosecutor at jury trial in dozens of high-profile cases, to include murder, capital murder, aggravated sexual assault of a child, aggravated robbery and drug distribution charges. Mulliner has tried four death penalty cases to jury verdict, serving as lead counsel for the State in three. Upon leaving the Office, Mulliner spent six years employed by a prominent local criminal defense firm, learning and practicing the art of criminal defense in state

and federal criminal courts. In 2008, Mulliner founded The Mulliner Law Firm, which focused exclusively on criminal defense. In 2011, Mulliner served as the President of the San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association, an organization with over 400 members. During his many years of defense work, Mulliner was appointed and sworn to serve as Special Assistant Criminal District Attorney in Bexar, as well as Medina, Uvalde and Real Counties. Mulliner has well over 100 jury trials as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney.

Christian Neumann will serve as Misdemeanor Chief of Criminal Trial Division. Few prosecutors have seen the courtroom from every seat at the table; Neumann has. Neumann returns to the office, bringing nearly a decade of prosecution experience and a defense attorney's understanding of how every case gets tested. His path to the courtroom started at The University of Texas at Austin, where he earned his bachelor's degree, followed by a master's degree from Texas State University. At St. Mary's University School of Law, he graduated in the top ten percent of his class and was inducted into the Harlan Society. He clerked for U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez and for the Williamson County District Attorney. He spent his final year in the school's Criminal Justice Clinic, representing people who couldn't afford a lawyer in Bexar County courtrooms. After law school, Christian joined San Antonio trial attorney Michael McCrum, a former federal prosecutor. He went straight to work on the high-profile public corruption prosecution of former Texas Governor Rick Perry in which McCrum served as special prosecutor. Christian then went on to litigate complex federal white-collar cases in Texas and beyond. He then spent nearly ten years as a prosecutor in Bexar and Medina Counties, handling everything from misdemeanors to capital murder. In Bexar County, under two administrations, he rose quickly, trying homicides, drug trafficking and gang conspiracy cases, child sexual abuse cases, officer-involved shootings, and public integrity matters. In Medina County, he led the felony trial team and tried dozens of cases to verdict, including several murder trials. He also secured the conviction of a rogue sheriff's deputy for aggravated assault, a case with no precedent in that county. Christian is Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, a distinction held by a small fraction of Texas lawyers. He later returned to defense work, seeing again how the State's evidence holds up under challenge. Now he brings that perspective back to the prosecutor's table. He believes a strong case and a fair one are the same thing, and he is committed to seeking justice and keeping Bexar County safe.

Kristen Mulliner will serve as Felony Chief of Special Victims Unit. Mulliner embarked on her career as an Assistant Criminal District Attorney at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office upon graduating from St. Mary's Law School in 2006. During her tenure at the office, Mulliner acquired invaluable and diverse experience across various divisions. With several years of prosecuting criminal cases, Mulliner transitioned into private practice focusing on federal and state criminal defense. In 2019, she returned to the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, where she has excelled as a first-chair felony prosecutor trying complex cases and securing multiple life sentences against sexually violent offenders. Her tenure has been characterized by her dedication to handling an extensive number of cases involving crimes against children and families, as well as other violent offenses within the community. Mulliner's career is defined by her unwavering determination to

secure justice for some of the most vulnerable members of our community and her commitment to public service.

Maritza Perez-Stewart will serve as Misdemeanor Chief of Special Victims Unit. Perez-Stewart has been practicing criminal law since 2013. She received a bachelor's degree from The University of the Incarnate Word, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from St. Mary's University in San Antonio. After getting her Master's Degree, Perez-Stewart graduated with a Juris Doctor degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. Shortly after passing the bar, she became an Assistant Criminal District Attorney at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office in 2013. While at that office, Perez-Stewart prosecuted every offense from misdemeanor DWI to Capital Murder. Perez-Stewart was also assigned as a misdemeanor court "mini-chief" where she trained an upcoming group of prosecutors who are now court chiefs and judges in their own right.
Rising through the ranks at the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office, Perez-Stewart became a family violence district court chief in 2021. She was then recruited by the Guadalupe County Attorney's Office to be the Division Chief of the Family Justice Unit, where she ran the Felony Family Justice Division as well as the misdemeanors and protective orders. She also trained law enforcement officers and child protective services' investigators on how to best prosecute cases involving children. In that position, Perez-Stewart tried cases and won convictions against the worst of the worst, seeking justice for women and children victimized by intimate partners and family members. Training trial lawyers is a passion for Perez-Stewart, and she has been an adjunct professor at St. Mary's University School of Law since 2017, responsible for training law students how to be trial lawyers. She has coached champion teams in competitions all over the country, and her former students are now leaders of the bench and bar all over the State of Texas. She is dedicated to help make Bexar County safe.

Clayton Haden will serve as Chief of Vehicular Crimes. A San Antonio native, Haden has dedicated more than 25 years to public service as a prosecutor with the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. Throughout his career, he has prosecuted a wide range of serious felony offenses, including intoxication manslaughter, sexual assault, aggravated robbery, and capital murder. Haden brings extensive trial experience and specialized knowledge of intoxication-related offenses to his role as Chief of the DWI Task Force. He has tried numerous felony cases throughout his career, including multiple intoxication manslaughter prosecutions. He previously served two assignments with the DWI Task Force, from 2002 to 2004 and again from 2012 to 2013. In his current position, he is responsible for reviewing vehicular crime cases, making charging decisions, and presenting cases to grand juries. As Chief of Vehicular Crimes, Haden will oversee the prosecution of serious vehicular crimes, including murders, intoxication manslaughters, intoxication assaults, and other intoxication-related offenses. Throughout his career, he has also supervised and mentored numerous young prosecutors. Haden earned his undergraduate degree from the University of the South in 1997, where he played collegiate soccer, and his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in 2000.

Nathan Morey will serve as Chief of Appeals. Morey is originally from the Dallas/Fort Worth area, where he attended The University of Texas at Arlington, earning a degree in Criminology with

a minor in Music. Following graduation, he served as a Community Supervision Officer with Dallas County before pursuing his law degree at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio. After graduating from law school and passing the Texas Bar, Nathan joined the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney in January 2011. During his tenure, he has served in several divisions, gaining experience across all stages of criminal prosecution from initial intake to trying cases before a jury to postconviction litigation. He has spent the majority of his career in the Appellate Division, where he has successfully represented the State of Texas in several courts of appeals and the Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin.

Judge Ben Robertson will serve as Chief of the Civil Division. Before stepping into his role as a public servant, Robertson worked as a commercial and energy litigator at Cox Smith Matthews. In his first year of practice, he led a team of fourteen attorneys in the largest document review project in the firm's history, and the following year, he successfully defended against a $300 million dollar lawsuit in the same case. In 2015, he and four other attorneys formed energy litigation boutique Santoyo Wehmeyer P.C., where he was eventually promoted to partner. While in private practice, Robertson earned his Board Certification in Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization; worked on cases in trial courts, courts of appeals, and the Supreme Court of Texas; and obtained multimillion dollar verdicts, including Texas Top 20 and Top 50 verdicts in 2015, 2016, and 2018. Since 2017, he has continually served on a statewide pattern jury charge committee. In 2021, Robertson left private practice to work as staff attorney for Fourth Court of Appeals Justice Lori I. Valenzuela until his appointment to a district court bench in September 2024. Robertson served as judge of both the 73rd Civil District Court and the 226th Criminal District Court, where in just over two years he presided over more than sixty trials and maintained the highest clearance rate of any Bexar County district court.

Lauren Glasscock will serve as Chief of Intake and Grand Jury. Glasscock is rolling up her sleeves to help institute change. She brings something invaluable to a fresh start: nearly twenty years inside the office she is now helping to shape. For Glasscock, the work starts at home. She was born and raised in San Antonio and left only long enough to earn her degree from The University of Texas at Austin. She came back to attend St. Mary's University School of Law, and in 2007, she walked into the DA's office as a legal intern. She has been there ever since. She has prosecuted thousands of cases across the Family Violence, Intake, and Criminal Trial divisions. She has stood with victims at some of the hardest moments of their lives and argued cases in front of Bexar County juries. Most recently, she led the office's Ethical Disclosure Unit, which makes sure defendants and their lawyers receive the information they are entitled to about the credibility of law enforcement and other witnesses who testify. It is the kind of work that builds public trust one case at a time. Glasscock knows how the office works, so she sees clearly what it can become: more effective, more accountable, and more connected to the community it serves. Her priorities will be on developing cases that are strong yet fair and growing partnerships with law enforcement and community groups, so that they are built on trust and a justice system all of Bexar County can believe in.

Austin Stout will serve as Chief of Mental Health|Diversion. Stout is a career prosecutor who currently serves as a Special Assistant District Attorney with the Texas Department of Insurance Fraud Unit. Before taking on that role, he spent more than a decade with the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office across three elected District Attorney administrations, where he served as First Chair Prosecutor of the 290th District Court in the Criminal Trial Division. During his tenure at the District Attorney's Office, he worked in a variety of capacities across the appeals, juvenile, grand jury, vehicular crimes, and criminal trial divisions. In addition to his work as an attorney, Stout serves as an undergraduate lecturer at both The University of Texas at San Antonio and Our Lady of the Lake University, teaching courses in criminal law and criminal procedure. He earned his Juris Doctor, summa cum laude, from South Texas College of Law and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Sam Houston State University.

Brandon Crowder will serve as Chief of Investigations. Crowder is returning to the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office, where he previously served as Lieutenant and Operations Commander. He rejoins the office after serving as Vice President of Client Services at GMJ, Inc. (Griffith Mosley Johnson), where he consulted for industry, business and government clients. During his first tenure at Bexar County, from 2017 to 2021, Crowder directed daily operations for seven criminal divisions, supervised the Executive Protection Detail for the elected District Attorney and served as a Special Crimes/Child Abuse Investigator. Before that, he was a Criminal Investigator with the Jefferson County Criminal District Attorney's Office, where he coordinated federal extraditions and testified as a fingerprint identification witness. Crowder brings more than 30 years of experience in law enforcement, public service and private-sector leadership. He is a U.S. Navy Desert Storm veteran who served as a Cryptologic Specialist with a top-secret clearance. He spent more than a decade with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, was named Texas D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year in 1994 and was twice elected Jefferson County Constable for Precinct 4. In the private sector, he managed multiple concrete plants with more than 100 employees and over $20 million in annual revenue. Crowder is a Master Peace Officer and TCOLE Instructor with more than 1,700 hours of credited law enforcement training. He is a graduate of the Law Enforcement Leadership Institute at Southwest Texas State University.

Drew Marks will serve as Deputy Chief of Investigations. Marks is a veteran law enforcement professional with more than 30 years of service in Texas. He currently works as a Criminal Investigator with the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. Since 2021, he has also served as a Federal Task Force Officer assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). In that role, he works on large-scale federal investigations into Mexican drug cartels alongside special agents from the DEA, FBI, IRS, U.S. Marshals Service, and state and local agencies. He also flies as an in-flight camera operator for aerial surveillance operations. Before his federal assignment, Marks investigated special crimes and child abuse cases for the District Attorney's Office. He prepared cases for indictment, located victims and witnesses, and trained the office's investigators in firearms. He also served as lead protection officer on the District Attorney's Executive Protection Team. Marks spent 23 years with the San Antonio Police Department. As a Detective Investigator, he

worked in the Repeat Offenders Program, the Vice Unit, and Crime Scene Investigation, where he led teams of detectives serving arrest and search warrants and regularly testified in court. Earlier, as a member of the SWAT Team and Special Operations Unit, he responded to the city's highest-priority calls. He also helped protect U.S. Presidents, foreign leaders, and other dignitaries. His public service began in the U.S. Army. He served as a Combat Engineer with the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood and deployed to Southwest Asia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was honorably discharged with the Army Achievement Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. Marks is a Texas Master Peace Officer and a TCOLE-certified Instructor and Firearms Instructor, with more than 4,000 certified training hours. His training covers executive protection, counter-terrorism, advanced SWAT tactics, and interview and interrogation. He attended Wayland Baptist University.

Cole Ryan Bowles is currently serving as Justice Chapa's Executive Assistant. Bowles is a government affairs and political operations professional with extensive experience in strategic planning, logistical coordination, and executive-level operations. He has served in senior political and operational roles supporting elected officials at the municipal, county, and state levels, including judicial offices and executive leadership teams throughout Texas. His experience includes overseeing budgets totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars, coordinating complex schedules and large-scale operations, and managing relationships with government officials, community stakeholders, and institutional partners. Bowles brings a comprehensive understanding of government affairs, political strategy, and organizational logistics, with a demonstrated commitment to effective public administration and public service.

Over the coming weeks, the transition will focus on evaluating operations and budget, establishing priorities, engaging with key stakeholders, and preparing for the incoming administration.

"This transition is about more than a change in leadership. It is about laying the foundation for the future of the Bexar County District Attorney's office--one in which victims, families, and the community can trust," DA-Elect Justice Chapa added. "We have important work ahead of us, but rest assured, the work has already begun for the people of Bexar County. My leadership team and I are honored and humbled by this opportunity."

Justice Luz Elena Chapa will officially assume office on January 1, 2027. Please refer to the attached organizational chart for the transition team's structure.

For questions regarding official District Attorney business or the transition, please contact Hon. Ina Minjarez at ina@chapaforda.com.

For scheduling requests, media inquiries or campaign-related business, please contact Cole Ryan Bowles at cole@chapaforda.com.

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