

December 18, 2018

PRESS RELEASE REGARDING
STATE SENATOR CHARLES SCHWERTNER

Austin Attorneys David and Perry Minton release the following statement on behalf of State Senator Charles Schwertner regarding the University of Texas' investigation:

"The University of Texas contacted our offices today to report that the allegations against him are 'unsubstantiated and that the matter is now closed.' The University went on to say that Senator Schwertner has not violated any University policies and that the school will take no further action. We are pleased that Senator Schwertner has been cleared of this matter by the University.

In making these findings, the University of Texas adopted former United States Attorney Johnny Sutton's findings that were made after a very extensive and thorough investigation that took place over the last three months. We stated our enthusiasm from the outset, that such an experienced former Justice Department prosecutor would be investigating this matter.

Those who have followed this investigation will remember that Senator Schwertner tendered his phone to the University's own forensic expert for examination. This forensic expert, R3 Forensics, determined that the texts and photos could not have come from the Senator's phone. In addition to that, the Senator took the very unusual step of voluntarily taking a polygraph from a former director of the Austin Police Department's polygraph division. This polygraph report made an affirmative finding of 'No Deception' on the part of the Senator regarding these allegations. Moreover, the information that the Senator provided in his cooperation with this investigation was further supported by a third party that took responsibility for the alleged conduct.

From the start of this investigation, Senator Schwertner was eager for us to coordinate his interview to answer questions by the University. However, the University subsequently informed our law firm, that although it could insure confidentiality to the graduate student, the same confidentiality would not be afforded the Senator. Upon our advice and against the Senator's wishes, we declined to subject the Senator to such an unfair process. This process is inherently flawed, as it started with an illegal leak on the part of Senior University Officials who have yet to be identified or disciplined in any manner whatsoever. We truly believe that in order for future University investigations to be credible, these individuals need to be removed.

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Neither the Senator nor this law firm wants to be unfair to the University of Texas and its efforts to resolve this matter. And while we were very disappointed in how this process started, we are grateful that our statements of the Senator's innocence in this matter have now been confirmed."

Personal Statement Directly From Senator Charles Schwertner:

"I do not condone sexual misconduct of any kind. The University of Texas has closed their investigation because I did not send the offensive text messages in question. I appreciate the steadfast support of my family, friends and the voters who believed in and reelected me just weeks ago. This unfortunate matter is now closed. Finally, I thank God for the strength he has graced me with during this troubling time."