

**CAUSE NO. 296-83565-2025**

|                          |   |                       |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| THE STATE OF TEXAS       | § | IN THE 296TH JUDICIAL |
|                          | § |                       |
| VS.                      | § | DISTRICT COURT        |
|                          | § |                       |
| KARMELO SINCERE ANTHONY, | § | COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS  |
| Defendant.               | § |                       |

**DEFENDANT'S VERIFIED MOTION TO RECUSE**

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT, AND TO THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDICIAL REGION:

COMES NOW Defendant KARMELO SINCERE ANTHONY, by and through the undersigned counsel, and pursuant to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure 18a and 18b respectfully moves to recuse the Honorable John Roach from presiding over the post-trial proceedings in this cause — including Defendant's Motion for New Trial and Brief in Support and Defendant's Objection to the Closure of the Proceedings and to Any Continued Restriction of Public Access, and Motion for Evidentiary Hearing to Clarify the Record for Appeal, both filed contemporaneously herewith. In support, Mr. Anthony shows the following:

**I.**

**TIMELINESS AND PROCEDURAL POSTURE**

1. A jury found Mr. Anthony guilty of murder, and on June 9, 2026, the Court imposed sentence in open court, assessing thirty-five (35) years confinement. Contemporaneously with this Motion to Recuse, Mr. Anthony has filed Defendant's Motion for New Trial and Brief in Support and Defendant's Objection to the Closure of the Proceedings and to Any Continued Restriction of Public Access, and Motion for Evidentiary Hearing to Clarify the Record for Appeal. Those filings require factfinding concerning the Court's access order, courtroom capacity, public seating, overflow access, record restrictions, and the Court's post-trial public statements. A notice of appeal has been filed. The grounds for this Motion to Recuse arose after trial, as set forth below.
2. This Court retains authority over the post-trial proceedings. A notice of appeal does not divest the trial court of jurisdiction to conduct post-trial proceedings — including a hearing to settle

and clarify the record and a timely motion for new trial; that authority continues through the seventy-fifth day after sentencing and until the appellate record is filed in the court of appeals. *State v. Moore*, 225 S.W.3d 556 (Tex. Crim. App. 2007); Tex. R. App. P. 21.8, 25.2(g). Because the Honorable John Roach is the judge who would preside over the requested evidentiary hearing and rule on a timely motion for new trial, recusal is properly sought now.

3. This Motion is timely. A motion to recuse must ordinarily be filed at least ten days before the hearing at issue; where, as here, the grounds for recusal arise after trial, the motion must be filed at the earliest practicable time after the movant learns of them. Tex. R. Civ. P. 18a(b)(1); see also *Villareal v. State*, 348 S.W.3d 365, 369 n.2 (Tex. App.—Austin 2011, pet. ref'd) (the ten-day requirement is not absolute where the movant could not have known of the ground until after the motion would already be untimely). The motion must also be verified and must state with particularity the grounds why the judge should not sit, on personal knowledge and setting forth facts that would be admissible in evidence. Tex. R. Civ. P. 18a(a); *Kennedy v. Texas Court of Criminal Appeals*, 336 S.W.3d 382, 384 (Tex. App.—Texarkana 2011) (the requisites of the rule are mandatory). This Motion satisfies each requirement. The undersigned counsel entered an appearance in this cause on June 23, 2026, and first became aware of the interview described herein on that date. This Motion is filed at the earliest practicable time thereafter — before any hearing on the motion for new trial has been set or held, and before any ruling on that motion.

## II.

### GROUNDS FOR RECUSAL

4. After the jury returned its verdict and the Court imposed sentence on June 9, 2026, the Honorable John Roach, the presiding judge at trial, granted a televised interview to WFAA-TV (Channel 8) concerning this case that aired on or about June 11, 2026. In that interview, Judge Roach expressed personal opinions about the propriety and correctness of the jury's verdict, the fairness of the trial, and the correctness of the judge's own rulings during trial. Such conduct implicates the Texas Code of Judicial Conduct and the objective appearance standard under Rule 18b. The case remains a "pending or impending proceeding" before the Court at this time, and public statements expressing the judge's personal views on these matters

would suggest to a reasonable person the judge's probable decision on any motion for new trial that may be filed. Recusal is therefore necessary.

5. Among the problematic comments that Judge Roach made during the WFAA-TV interview are the following:

- (a) Judge Roach endorsed the jury's guilty verdict. When asked by a reporter, "Did the jury get it right?" Judge Roach answered, "Yeah, they did," explaining that the jurors "were picked based upon the law" and "listened to the facts ... that happened here in this very courtroom," and added that "whatever they say ... they get it right."
- (b) Judge Roach characterized Mr. Anthony as "a nice young man ... who committed a crime" who "understands today ... the consequences of committing a crime like ... he did," and declared that Mr. Anthony had received a fair trial, stating, "I certainly think he did."
- (c) Judge Roach defended the courtroom-access and no-streaming restrictions that the motion for new trial challenges, calling the decision not to allow cameras or streaming "an easy decision," asserting that "the general public had access to the courtroom," stating that of the seventy seats in the courtroom he had "200 requests by the media" and that the public had only "27 to 32 ... public seats ... that we rotated every day," maintaining that members of the public "could have stood in line with everybody else" to obtain one, and concluding that he had "struck that balance pretty well."
- (d) Judge Roach addressed a suggestion, then circulating in social media, that he had a personal relationship with the family of the deceased, denying that he knew "the Metcalf family," disputing the authenticity of the images said to show otherwise (which appear to have been fabricated), and volunteering that he "sympathize[d] with the Metcalfs and what they've been through."
- (e) Judge Roach addressed his rulings during jury selection. When asked about the defense's objection to the dismissal of three prospective jurors who had identified as African American, Judge Roach stated that he "followed the law in that case" and "did it to a T," that he was "proud of that," and that although he "knew in the back of [his] mind what the perception was gonna be," he was "not here to satisfy perceptions."

Judge Roach reiterated this public defense of his own rulings in a written statement to Fox News, in which he stated: “I understood the public’s desire to know what happened in the courtroom. The overwhelming focus on my ruling regarding the media in courtroom was to protect the process, witnesses, and jury. Now that the trial is over, it is important to me to provide transparency.”

6. A verified transcript of the interview is attached as Exhibit A; the recording of the interview is filed conventionally with the Clerk as Exhibit C; and Judge Roach’s written statement to Fox News is attached as Exhibit D.
7. Throughout the trial proceedings, an order prohibiting extrajudicial statements (the “Gag Order”), entered July 28, 2025, barred every other participant in this case — all parties and their attorneys; witnesses, expert consultants, agents, and spokespersons; and law enforcement personnel, courthouse and court staff, and court-appointed officials — from making any extrajudicial statement that addresses the character, credibility, expected testimony, guilt, or innocence of any party or witness, that discusses the anticipated evidence, or that is intended or likely to influence public opinion. The Court grounded that restriction in its own findings that extrajudicial publicity posed a risk of “imminent and irreparable harm” to the right to a fair trial. By its terms, the Gag Order governed the proceedings through the conclusion of trial; the Court’s interview followed sentencing, and Mr. Anthony does not assert that it breached the order. What matters is not any breach, but the principle the Court itself announced in entering the order — that public commentary on a pending criminal proceeding threatens the fairness of that proceeding. (Gag Order attached as Exhibit B.)
8. The same judge who imposed silence on the defense, the State, and all other participants — on the express premise that public commentary threatens a fair proceeding — thereafter spoke publicly about this case, endorsing the verdict he is being asked to set aside and defending the access rulings now challenged, all while retaining the authority to preside over the post-trial proceedings still before him, including the requested evidentiary hearing and a timely motion for new trial.
9. In his contemporaneously filed Objection and Motion for New Trial, Mr. Anthony contends that the management of courtroom security and capacity led to the denial of a public trial.

Judge Roach’s own public statements reflect substantial personal involvement in the logistics and access decisions now at issue. In his post-trial WFAA interview, Judge Roach stated that he had been “prepping for this trial” with county departments, the Collin County system, the sheriff’s office, and others “for about eight months.” In his June 17, 2026 public letter, Judge Roach described the involvement of multiple county agencies and offices in the trial’s logistical administration. These facts reinforce why another judge should decide the post-trial motions based on documentary evidence, testimony from non-judicial witnesses, and a record made in open court, rather than requiring the respondent judge to evaluate the legal effect of his own disputed public explanations and access-related decisions.

10. The interview was not Judge Roach’s last public word on this case. On June 17, 2026 — after sentencing, while the Court retained authority to decide a timely motion for new trial and the cause remained subject to direct appeal — Judge Roach published a signed public letter about this prosecution on Collin County’s official government website, under the title “Thank You Letter from Judge John Roach.” (Ex. E.) Addressed to “the Members of the Collin County Family,” Judge Roach speaks of “the recent trial of State of Texas v. Karmelo Anthony” as a finished undertaking and closes by calling that service “one of the great honors of my judicial career.” Judge Roach further tells the public that those who worked on the case “contributed to ensuring that the process was conducted fairly” — the very question a motion for new trial challenging the conduct of the trial would put before the Court to decide. A judge who publicly memorializes the trial as concluded, and publicly pronounces the process fair, while still holding the authority to grant a new trial, signals to a reasonable observer that he regards the matter as closed. That Judge Roach did so once more in a public forum — after having used the Gag Order to restrict every other participant’s public commentary throughout trial — sharpens rather than softens the appearance that the Court no longer sits as a neutral arbiter of the post-trial proceedings that remain before it.

### III.

#### STANDARD AND ARGUMENT

##### ***A. A Judge Must Recuse Where His Impartiality Might Reasonably Be Questioned.***

11. A judge must recuse in any proceeding in which the judge’s impartiality might reasonably be questioned, or in which the judge has a personal bias or prejudice concerning the subject matter

or a party. Tex. R. Civ. P. 18b(b)(1)–(2). These procedures apply in criminal cases. *De Leon v. Aguilar*, 127 S.W.3d 1, 6–7 (Tex. Crim. App. 2004); *Gaal v. State*, 332 S.W.3d 448, 452–53 (Tex. Crim. App. 2011).

12. The standard is objective. The question is not whether the judge is in fact biased, but whether a reasonable member of the public at large, knowing all the facts in the public domain concerning the judge’s conduct, would harbor a reasonable doubt that the judge is impartial. *Rogers v. Bradley*, 909 S.W.2d 872, 880–81 (Tex. 1995) (Enoch, J., concurring) (articulating this formulation), adopted in, e.g., *Burkett v. State*, 196 S.W.3d 892, 896 (Tex. App.—Texarkana 2006, no pet.); see also *Duffey v. State*, 428 S.W.3d 319, 325 (Tex. App.—Texarkana 2014, no pet.) (applying the objective *Rogers* standard); *Lewis v. State*, No. 02-13-00367-CR, 2014 WL 7204708, at \*6 (Tex. App.—Fort Worth Dec. 18, 2014) (mem. op., not designated for publication); *Abdygapparova v. State*, 243 S.W.3d 191, 198 (Tex. App.—San Antonio 2007, pet. ref’d) (reversing where the trial judge’s undisclosed ex parte communications with the prosecutor compromised the appearance of impartiality). Applied here, a reasonable observer aware that the presiding judge, during the Rule 21 period in which a motion for new trial could be filed and before his authority to rule on a timely motion expired, gave a public television interview endorsing the verdict and defending the challenged access rulings — the very matters a timely motion for new trial would ask him to set aside — would reasonably doubt that the judge could impartially decide that motion. The objection is not that the motion for new trial challenges the Court’s rulings; every such motion does. It is that the Court publicly vouched for the correctness of those specific rulings, outside the courtroom, before it was called upon to decide the motion.

***B. The Court’s Extrajudicial Public Commentary on This Case Requires Recusal.***

13. The basis for this Motion is the Court’s extrajudicial public statements about this case — not its rulings. Under Rule 18a, a judge’s rulings may not be the sole basis for recusal; but the Comment to the 2011 amendment makes clear that “the term ‘rulings’ is not meant to encompass a judge’s statements or remarks about a case.” Tex. R. Civ. P. 18a cmt. Bias or prejudice arising from an extrajudicial source is “a common basis” for recusal, *Liteky v. United States*, 510 U.S. 540, 551 (1994); *Kemp v. State*, 846 S.W.2d 289, 306 (Tex. Crim. App. 1992) (an extrajudicial source is one yielding an opinion on the merits “on some basis other than

what the judge learned from his participation in the case”). The question, however, is not whether the Court learned the facts of the case from a source outside the proceeding; it is that the Court made extrajudicial public statements that objectively appear to commit it to the verdict and the challenged access rulings while it still retained authority to decide a timely motion for new trial attacking those very matters. The contrary limitation — that a judge’s in-case “rulings, remarks, or actions” will only rarely support recusal, *Gaal*, 332 S.W.3d at 454 — has no application here, because the ground is not anything the Court did in the courtroom but what it said about the case outside of it. Where the principle that an extrajudicial source supports recusal has been applied to a judge’s public commentary about a pending case, courts have required disqualification, as set out below.

14. Most pointedly, the Court publicly defended the very courtroom-access restrictions that Mr. Anthony challenges as having denied him a public trial — the subject of his contemporaneously filed request for an evidentiary hearing and Motion for New Trial. The Court has now publicly characterized the same restrictions as proper and asserted that the public had access to the courtroom. The Court would thus be required to rule on a challenge to its own rulings after publicly committing, in the media, to those rulings’ correctness. A reasonable member of the public, aware of these facts, would harbor far more than a reasonable doubt that the Court could impartially decide that challenge. Nor was the Court’s public defense of its rulings limited to the access restrictions; the Court also defended its rulings during jury selection, declaring that it “followed the law” and “did it to a T.” That a judge would take to the media to vouch for the correctness of his own contested rulings, while review of those rulings remains to be sought, is at the core of what the objective standard forbids. Those access rulings are not merely challenged; a published decision of the very court that reviews this one has since held that a comparable space-based closure of jury selection, imposed without Waller findings or consideration of reasonable alternatives, violates the right to a public trial and requires a new trial. See *Stricker v. State*, No. 05-24-01091-CR, 2026 Tex. App. LEXIS 964 (Tex. App.—Dallas Jan. 29, 2026, mem. op., designated for publication); accord *Hernandez v. State*, No. 14-25-00292-CR (Tex. App.—Houston [14th Dist.] May 19, 2026) (designated for publication). That the Court publicly vouched for the correctness of rulings now challenged under recent, published public-trial authority from this Court of

Appeals only sharpens the appearance that it has committed itself, outside the courtroom, to a position it must now revisit.

15. The Court also publicly endorsed the correctness of the very verdict the motion for new trial asks it to set aside, stating that the jury reached the right result and that Mr. Anthony “committed a crime.” A judge who has publicly proclaimed the verdict correct cannot be expected to impartially decide a motion seeking to set that verdict aside.
16. The standard that governs judicial public comment confirms the appearance problem. The Code of Judicial Conduct provides that a judge “shall abstain from public comment about a pending or impending proceeding which may come before the judge’s court in a manner which suggests to a reasonable person the judge’s probable decision on any particular case.” Tex. Code Jud. Conduct, Canon 3B(10). Although that Canon does not bar a judge from explaining court procedures for public information, this was not a neutral procedural explanation: the Court endorsed the verdict, stated that Mr. Anthony had committed a crime, declared the trial fair, and defended the very access restrictions Mr. Anthony now challenges. That principle reflects the same concern that drives the recusal inquiry — that public confidence requires a judge not appear to have resolved, outside the courtroom, a matter still before him. Mr. Anthony does not contend that the Court should be disciplined. The point is narrower: the Court’s public endorsement of the verdict and defense of the challenged rulings — on a matter that remained pending, with the post-trial proceedings yet to be decided and the case subject to appeal — is precisely the kind of comment a reasonable observer would understand to signal the Court’s view of the very questions it must now decide.
17. Recusal does not turn on labeling the Court’s conduct a breach of any rule; it turns on the objective appearance standard. Mr. Anthony does not rest on any rule violation; a violation of a canon of judicial conduct will not, standing alone, support recusal absent the requisite showing. *Wesbrook v. State*, 29 S.W.3d 103, 121 (Tex. Crim. App. 2000). The controlling question is objective: whether the Court’s extrajudicial public commentary would cause a reasonable member of the public to doubt the Court’s impartiality. Under that standard, the Court’s public commentary is strong evidence on the appearance inquiry under Rule 18b(b)(1). The asymmetry lies at the heart of this Motion. By written order, the Court found that extrajudicial publicity posed a threat of “imminent and irreparable harm” to the fairness of this

proceeding, and on that finding it silenced everyone else with a stake in the case — the parties and their counsel, the witnesses, and even law-enforcement personnel, court staff, and the court-appointed officials who spoke for the court. Then, with every other participant bound to silence by the Court’s own command, the Court alone stepped before the cameras and spoke — at length — about the very case it continues to adjudicate, endorsing the verdict and defending the challenged rulings. A judge who declares public comment on a case so dangerous that all others must be silenced, and who then reserves that commentary to himself while the case remains before him, does not appear to a reasonable member of the public as the neutral arbiter the law requires. That asymmetry, standing alone, casts reasonable doubt on the Court’s impartiality in deciding the pending post-trial matters.

18. Federal courts applying the analogous appearance standard of 28 U.S.C. § 455(a) have treated a judge’s public comments on pending, newsworthy litigation as a serious recusal problem. Rule 18b(b)(1) mirrors 28 U.S.C. § 455(a), and decisions construing that provision are persuasive here. In *United States v. Cooley*, a judge presiding over pending matters appeared on national television and expressed his resolve as to how they should be resolved; the court held disqualification required because the appearance was that the judge had become “an active participant in the case instead of a detached adjudicator.” 1 F.3d 985, 995 (10th Cir. 1993). In *In re Boston’s Children First*, a judge gave a newspaper interview about a pending, high-profile case, and the court ordered disqualification, cautioning that judges must be “particularly cautious about commenting about pending litigation” in newsworthy cases. 244 F.3d 164, 169–70 (1st Cir. 2001). Those decisions describe this case. A judge who granted a televised interview about one of the most closely watched prosecutions in the State — endorsing the verdict, pronouncing the trial fair, and defending the very access rulings under review — has assumed the posture of an advocate for his own judgments rather than a neutral arbiter of the motion that challenges them.

***C. The Court Publicly Endorsed Positions on Issues It Still Had Authority to Decide.***

19. Mr. Anthony’s conviction is now pending on direct appeal before the Court of Appeals for the Fifth District of Texas at Dallas, No. 05-26-00840-CR. The trial court retains lawful authority over a timely motion for new trial notwithstanding the notice of appeal, see Tex. R. App. P. 25.2(g); the appearance problem is therefore not one of jurisdiction. Mr. Anthony gave notice

of appeal on June 10, 2026, the day after sentence was imposed and before the Court sat for its televised interview. With that appeal already initiated, and before any appellate brief was filed or any reviewing judge had written a word, the Court went on television and pronounced its own rulings correct and the verdict sound — reviewing and affirming its own decisions in the court of public opinion, ahead of the very courts to whom that review belongs. A trial judge’s public review of the merits of his own rulings while the court retains jurisdiction — with the post-trial proceedings yet to be decided, the notice of appeal on file, no brief yet written, and no appellate judge having spoken — underscores why a reasonable observer would doubt that the Court could now impartially preside over the post-trial proceedings, including a timely motion for new trial. A reasonable member of the public would regard a judge who publicly vouches for the correctness of his own judgments, while those judgments await the considered review of a higher court, as having exchanged the neutrality of the bench for advocacy of his own work, and would doubt that the same judge could impartially preside over the post-trial proceedings that remain before him. Tex. R. Civ. P. 18b(b)(1).

20. The need for recusal is brought to a point by the proceedings that now lie immediately ahead. Mr. Anthony has objected to the sealing of the court file and has asked this Court to convene an evidentiary hearing to establish, for the record and for appeal, how the trial was structured and closed, and how, when, and by what authority the court file and the reporter’s record were sealed and withheld. Those are inquiries into the Court’s own conduct. The judge who imposed the closure, directed the sealing, and then publicly defended both would be asked to preside over a hearing receiving evidence about the propriety of those very acts — and, in the motion for new trial to follow, to decide whether they require a new trial. A reasonable member of the public would doubt that the same judge could sit impartially as the factfinder on the lawfulness of his own challenged decisions. That doubt is itself reason to refer this matter so that a different judge conducts the hearing and decides the motions that depend on it.
21. There is a further dimension to the Court’s public commentary. In taking its defense of its own rulings to the press, the Court spoke not as a private citizen but with the authority of judicial office, lending that authority to a one-sided public account of a case it must still decide. The effect is to convert a matter committed to orderly adjudication into a public contest — one in which Mr. Anthony must either answer the Court in the media or allow the Court’s public

endorsement of its own rulings to stand un rebutted while that same Court continues to preside over the motion challenging them. A reasonable member of the public would not regard a judge so situated as the neutral arbiter the law requires. Tex. R. Civ. P. 18b(b)(1).

***D. The Court Also Took to the Airwaves to Answer a Suggestion of Its Own Partiality That No Party Had Raised.***

22. Mr. Anthony does not allege that the Court had any relationship with the family of the deceased; the social-media material suggesting such a relationship appears to have been fabricated, including by artificial means. The point is not the truth of that suggestion but the Court's response to it. Rather than allow a non-record rumor to remain outside the proceeding, the Court used its televised interview to answer a suggestion of its own partiality that no party had raised — denying any relationship with the family and, in the same setting, volunteering that it “sympathize[d] with the Metcalfs and what they’ve been through.” (Ex. A.) In stepping before the cameras to defend itself against an extrajudicial allegation, and to express sympathy for the family of the deceased while the Rule 21 period remained open, post-trial relief was impending, and the Court still retained authority to grant a new trial, the Court assumed the posture of a participant answering a charge rather than a detached adjudicator.
23. The governing question is objective: whether the Court's conduct, viewed by a reasonable member of the public, conveyed “an uncommon interest and degree of personal involvement” in the case. *United States v. Cooley*, 1 F.3d 985, 993, 995 (10th Cir. 1993). In *Cooley*, a judge's volunteer television appearance to speak about a pending, high-profile matter “unavoidably created the appearance that the judge had become an active participant” rather than “a detached adjudicator,” such that a reasonable person would “harbor a justified doubt as to his impartiality.” *Id.* at 995. The First Circuit ordered disqualification on materially similar facts when a judge gave a press interview about a pending, newsworthy case. *In re Boston's Children First*, 244 F.3d 164, 169–70 (1st Cir. 2001). A judge who goes on television to deny a personal allegation and to express sympathy for one side's family, while the Rule 21 period remained open and post-trial relief was impending, conveys the very personal involvement those decisions describe.
24. This ground is of a piece with the closure it accompanies. The Court's sealing of the record and its restrictions on public and press access created the information vacuum in which such

rumors could take hold; the Court then used the press access it had reserved both to refute the rumor and to re-justify the access restrictions that produced it. The objective appearance is of a judge managing the public narrative of his own case from both directions. Standing alone, this thread is the most modest of the grounds stated above, and Mr. Anthony presents it not as an independent basis for recusal but as confirmation of the personal involvement and want of detachment that the Court's endorsement of the verdict, its defense of the challenged rulings, and its public review of its own judgments already establish.

***E. Due Process Reinforces the Need for an Impartial Decisionmaker.***

25. The Court need not reach constitutional due process; Rule 18b(b)(1)'s objective appearance standard is sufficient. Due process confirms the importance of an impartial decisionmaker, and the principle that recusal is required where the probability of actual bias is too high to be constitutionally tolerable, *Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co.*, 556 U.S. 868, 872, 877 (2009); *Williams v. Pennsylvania*, 579 U.S. 1, 8–11 (2016), but the relief requested rests on the Texas recusal rules. At a minimum, the circumstances counsel strongly in favor of referring this Motion so that a different judge decides both recusal and the post-trial proceedings, including a timely motion for new trial.
26. Separately, and in the alternative, to the extent the motion for new trial requires factfinding on courtroom capacity, the volume of media requests, public seating and its rotation, the feasibility of an audio feed, and the reasons reasonable alternatives were rejected, the Court's own public statements reflect that it possesses personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts concerning the proceeding — an independent circumstance that reinforces recusal. Tex. R. Civ. P. 18b(b)(3).

**IV.**

**RELIEF REQUESTED**

27. Mr. Anthony requests that the Honorable John Roach, within three business days of the filing of this Motion, either sign and file an order of recusal or sign and file an order referring this Motion to the Presiding Judge of the First Administrative Judicial Region for assignment of a judge to hear and determine it. Because this Motion is filed after evidence was offered at trial, Mr. Anthony recognizes that Rule 18a(f)(2)(B), and not Rule 18a(f)(2)(A), governs, so that the respondent judge may proceed unless stayed. Mr. Anthony therefore further requests that the

Presiding Judge of the First Administrative Judicial Region, or the assigned judge, immediately enter an interim order under Rule 18a(g)(4) staying any ruling on the motion for new trial until this Motion is determined, and set this Motion for hearing as soon as practicable, so that a neutral judge may hear and rule on the motion for new trial before the Court's authority under Tex. R. App. P. 21.8 expires. Mr. Anthony seeks this expedited determination not to delay, but to permit a neutral judge to decide the motion for new trial within the time the law allows. Tex. R. Civ. P. 18a(f), (g).

28. Time is of the essence. This Court's authority to rule on the motion for new trial expires by operation of law on the seventy-fifth day after sentencing, and that deadline continues to run during referral and reassignment. Tex. R. App. P. 21.8. Mr. Anthony therefore respectfully requests that referral, assignment, and determination of this Motion proceed on an expedited basis, so that the judge to whom this Motion is assigned may hear and rule on the motion for new trial before it is overruled by operation of law. By separate cover, Mr. Anthony has requested expedited assignment from the Presiding Judge of the First Administrative Judicial Region.

#### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Mr. Anthony respectfully prays that this Motion be granted; that the Honorable John Roach sign an order recusing himself or, in the alternative, refer this Motion to the Honorable Ray Wheless, Presiding Judge of the First Administrative Judicial Region, for assignment of an impartial judge to hear and determine this Motion and Mr. Anthony's motion for new trial; and that Mr. Anthony have such other and further relief to which Mr. Anthony may be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Russell Wilson II  
**Russell Wilson II**  
Lead Counsel  
State Bar No. 00794870  
The Law Office of Russell Wilson II  
1910 Pacific Avenue, Suite 12050  
Dallas, Texas 75201  
(469) 573-0211  
russell@russellwilsonlaw.com

/s/ Michael L. Ware  
**Michael L. Ware**  
Second Chair  
State Bar No. 20864200  
Law Office of Michael Ware  
300 Burnett Street, Suite 160  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102  
(817) 338-4100  
ware@mikewarelaw.com

/s/ Gary L. Bledsoe  
**Gary L. Bledsoe**  
Third Chair  
State Bar No. 02476500  
The Bledsoe Law Firm, PLLC  
6633 E. Highway 290, Suite 208  
Austin, Texas 78723-1157  
(512) 322-9992  
gbledsoe@thebledsoelawfirm.com

/s/ Brooke Cluse  
**Brooke Cluse**  
Co-Counsel  
State Bar No. 24123034  
Ben Crump Law, PLLC  
5 Cowboys Way, Suite 300  
Frisco, Texas 75034  
(800) 683-5111  
brooke@bencrump.com

/s/ Sean Daredia

**Sean Daredia**

Co-Counsel

State Bar No. 24091223

Daredia Law Firm

14800 Quorum Drive, Suite 265

Dallas, Texas 75254

(817) 936-3167

sean@daredialaw.com

/s/ Justin A. Moore

**Justin A. Moore**

Co-Counsel

State Bar No. 24088906

Stafford Moore, PLLC

325 N. St. Paul Street, Suite 2210

Dallas, Texas 75201

(214) 764-1529

justin@staffordmoore.law

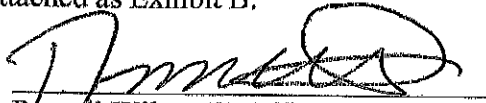
Attorneys for Defendant Karmelo Sincere  
Anthony

# VERIFICATION

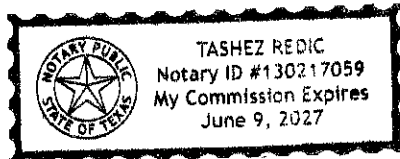
STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF DALLAS

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BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Russell Wilson II, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed and stated: "My name is Russell Wilson II. I am over eighteen years of age, of sound mind, and competent to make this verification. I am the attorney for Mr. Anthony in this cause. I have read the foregoing Motion to Recuse. The factual statements concerning my appearance in this cause and the timeliness of this Motion are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct. The factual statements concerning the content of Judge Roach's public statements — his WFAA-TV interview and his written statement to Fox News — are based on, and authenticated by, the recording of the interview filed conventionally with the Clerk as Exhibit C, the declaration accompanying the verified transcript attached as Exhibit A, and the written statement to Fox News attached as Exhibit D, each of which I have reviewed. The factual statements concerning Judge Roach's public letter of June 17, 2026, are based on, and authenticated by, that letter as published on Collin County's official website and attached as Exhibit E, which I have reviewed. The factual statements concerning the Court's public description of its preparation for and coordination of this trial are based on, and authenticated by, the verified transcript attached as Exhibit A and the public letter attached as Exhibit E, which I have reviewed. The Order Prohibiting Extrajudicial Statements is attached as Exhibit B."

  
Russell Wilson II, Affiant

SWORN TO and SUBSCRIBED before me on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026



  
Notary Public, State of Texas

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served on the Collin County Criminal District Attorney's Office on the 6th day of July , 2026, and that, upon filing, the clerk is requested to deliver a copy to the respondent judge and to the Presiding Judge of the First Administrative Judicial Region as required by Rule 18a(e).

/s/ Russell Wilson II  
Russell Wilson II

## **INDEX OF EXHIBITS**

Exhibit A — Verified transcript of the WFAA-TV (Channel 8) interview of the Honorable John Roach (aired on or about June 11, 2026), together with the authenticating declaration of the custodian who reviewed the recording and verified the transcript.

Exhibit B — Order Prohibiting Extrajudicial Statements (“Gag Order”), signed July 28, 2025.

Exhibit C — Video recording of the WFAA-TV (Channel 8) interview of the Honorable John Roach, filed conventionally with the Clerk on a USB flash drive as an exhibit not amenable to electronic filing.

Exhibit D — Written statement of the Honorable John Roach to Fox News.

Exhibit E — Public letter of the Honorable John Roach titled “Thank You Letter from Judge John Roach,” dated June 17, 2026, published on the official website of Collin County, Texas.

## **INDEX OF EXHIBITS**

### *Defendant's Verified Motion to Recuse*

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- Exhibit A**     Verified transcript of the WFAA-TV interview of Judge John R. Roach, with the affidavit of counsel authenticating these exhibits (offered in both the Motion for New Trial and the Motion to Recuse).
- Exhibit B**     Order Prohibiting Extrajudicial Statements (“Gag Order”), signed July 28, 2025.
- Exhibit C**     Video recording of the WFAA-TV interview of Judge John R. Roach.
- Exhibit D**     Written statement of Judge John R. Roach to Fox News.
- Exhibit E**     Public letter of Judge John R. Roach titled “Thank You Letter from Judge John Roach,” dated June 17, 2026.

# EXHIBIT A

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Verified transcript of the WFAA-TV interview of Judge John R. Roach, with the affidavit of counsel authenticating these exhibits (offered in both the Motion for New Trial and the Motion to Recuse).

## TRANSCRIPT OF TELEVISED INTERVIEW

Interview of the Honorable John R. Roach, Judge, 296th Judicial District Court,  
by WFAA-TV (Channel 8), aired on or about June 11, 2026

*Note: This transcript was prepared from a recording of the interview. Speaker designations are supplied for readability, and the spellings of proper names (including "Karmelo Anthony" and public information officer "Stoler") have been corrected. This transcript is offered in conjunction with actual audio video*

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[00:00:00] **JUDGE ROACH:** John Roach. J-O-H-N R-O-A-C-H

[00:00:04] **INTERVIEWER:** And, uh, I, I know the answers to that. I know the answer to that question, but I gotta ask it for

[00:00:08] **JUDGE ROACH:** the record. Yeah. 100%. Um.

[00:00:09] **INTERVIEWER:** Uh, you've been on the bench for some time.

[00:00:12] **JUDGE ROACH:** Yep, I've been on the bench for about 20 years.

[00:00:14] **INTERVIEWER:** 20 years. And this is the end.

[00:00:16] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, in the six months it'll be in the end.

[00:00:19] **INTERVIEWER:** Did you take on, did you want to take on this trial?

[00:00:22] **JUDGE ROACH:** I wanted, uh, the Collin County judiciary to take on this trial. It was important to me to have somebody from Collin County preside over this, um, Collin County case. So I didn't ask for it. No one, uh... That's not how it works anyway. Yeah. Uh, I didn't ask for it, but I was certainly willing to do it because that was my duty.

[00:00:39] **INTERVIEWER:** In your conversations with, my guess, it's an administrative judge who goes... They, I know they go down the list and they say, "All right, it's your turn, and it's your turn," um, as they go through all the conflicts of judges that may, potential conflicts. When they come and say, "John, it's, this may be yours," your first reaction is?

[00:00:57] **JUDGE ROACH:** I'll take it. Every time I think it's my job. It's my duty. That's what I elected, was elected to do. Yeah. That's the oath that I took, uh, and I'm gonna do my job.

[00:01:07] **INTERVIEWER:** No cons- consultation with your family or- None. No.

[00:01:10] **JUDGE ROACH:** Nope.

[00:01:10] **INTERVIEWER:** And where does that come from?

[00:01:12] **JUDGE ROACH:** I don't know. I think it's just duty. I think duty, whether that's duty in the Marine Corps or just duty to my family and stuff, I take duty really seriously.

[00:01:20] **JUDGE ROACH:** Okay. And I took this job to, to perform that duty, and if that's what I had to do, that's, that's what I have to do.

[00:01:26] **INTERVIEWER:** Did you fully, at the time, grasp the enormity of that decision and, and, and the outside stuff?

[00:01:32] **JUDGE ROACH:** I don't know. I, I think in some ways I did. I think in other ways I didn't. I, um, certainly knew it was a very, very important, uh, case, uh, within our community.

[00:01:41] **JUDGE ROACH:** I didn't think I realized the enormity of the social media and the media, uh, during the trial.

[00:01:48] **INTERVIEWER:** How long have you been prepping for this trial?

[00:01:50] **JUDGE ROACH:** I've been prepping for this trial, uh, with the department, with the Collin County system, with the sheriff's office and everybody for about eight months.

[00:01:57] **INTERVIEWER:** Is that the longest you've ever had to prep?

[00:01:59] **JUDGE ROACH:** 100%.

[00:02:01] **INTERVIEWER:** Why?

[00:02:02] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, logistics. Uh, one of the critical pieces of this case were we had minors who were testifying. Uh, prior to me getting the case, we had some of those witnesses doxxed and swatted and revealed on social media. Uh, I didn't want that to add to the already traumatic event they'd been through, and I didn't want them to change their testimony or be uncooperative with people trying to call them to witness out of fear.

[00:02:27] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, and so my number one duty at that point in time getting the case was to how do we protect those minors, uh, who are critical to this case to come and testify? I-

[00:02:39] **INTERVIEWER:** I'm sure you, you've already read and know that, uh, one of your fellow judges has already been doxxed and swatted and all the things. Yes.

[00:02:45] **JUDGE ROACH:** I did know that.

[00:02:46] **INTERVIEWER:** And, um, still no reluctance from wanting to take it on?

[00:02:51] **JUDGE ROACH:** None.

[00:02:52] **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah. Um, the decision to not have cameras or any kind of streaming, was that an easy one?

[00:03:01] **JUDGE ROACH:** Yes, it was an easy decision, and I'll tell you why. My primary goal in any case is to make sure that the defendant and the prosecution gets a fair trial, period.

[00:03:12] **JUDGE ROACH:** I have seen from other cases around the country where cameras in the courtroom change the way that the judge acted, uh, the lawyers acted, some of the witnesses acted, and we were not gonna have that here. We were gonna really isolate, um, the purpose for which we were here for, which is to have that fair trial.

[00:03:29] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, and cameras in the courtroom did not enter into that equation, uh, at all.

[00:03:34] **INTERVIEWER:** How much, how much grief did you get from, from people around you about that decision?

[00:03:40] **JUDGE ROACH:** I don't know. I don't listen to it. I just, I just flat don't listen to the, to what's going on on the outside. I do what I think is right, uh, no matter what decision that is.

[00:03:49] **JUDGE ROACH:** And I sleep well at night knowing if I follow the law, uh, then everything works out like it's supposed to. And so these outside influences, all the noise from the outside, I really isolated myself from that, in this case and in all cases, and just do my job, uh, the best I can following the law.

[00:04:05] **INTERVIEWER:** How do you think the, uh, uh, I mean, I'm, I'm

[00:04:07] **INTERVIEWER:** We're talking with the attorneys, uh, other attorneys outside of- Uh-huh ... outside of this. How do you think they describe you? Hmm.

[00:04:13] **JUDGE ROACH:** Strict. Uh, no nonsense. Fair. Uh, and, and that to me is the most important part. I know for a fact when I make a decision here, people are unhappy. What I hope is when they walk out the door, that they think they got a fair trial or a fair hearing or a fair something.

[00:04:29] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, and if they do that, no matter what they think about me personally, then I've succeeded.

[00:04:34] **INTERVIEWER:** And you're, you're okay with any, any of those characterizations?

[00:04:38] **JUDGE ROACH:** I think they're fair.

[00:04:40] **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah. Um, I, I hate to have to ask about stuff that emerges on social media, but I- Yeah ... but I have to ask it. Uh, and I know you don't know of it, any of it because you, you're not on social medias.

[00:04:53] **JUDGE ROACH:** I'm on it. I mean, I'm an elected official, so I have a Facebook page and stuff. Do I look at it? Do I monitor it? Uh, do I let it impact me? Uh, none. Not at all.

[00:05:04] **INTERVIEWER:** So I have to ask, do you have a personal relationship with the Metcalfs?

[00:05:08] **JUDGE ROACH:** I wouldn't know Mr. Metcalf prior to this trial if he walked up to me and said hello.

[00:05:13] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, I don't know the Metcalfs. Um, I sympathize with the Metcalfs and what they've been through and all, but I don't know them personally. Uh, never have.

[00:05:21] **INTERVIEWER:** So these, the, these AI images emerging- Yeah ... of you and, and them at a party or drinking together, all of that- Never

[00:05:27] **JUDGE ROACH:** happened. And that's the problem with social media, isn't it?

[00:05:30] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, you, you c- you can't tell what's true and what's not true. I will tell you, I got some reports of some things that were coming out of this courtroom, and I wondered to myself, were they even in the same courtroom that I was? It's that bad, and I think that's tragic because I think really if you just listen to the case based upon the facts, you'd understand it so much better.

[00:05:47] **INTERVIEWER:** Do you think it reinforced your, uh, your decision to not have cameras or, or streaming inside this-

[00:05:53] **JUDGE ROACH:** Sort of. I, I will tell you this. I sometimes I think maybe I should have, at least the audio streamed or something so people could hear it. But at the end of the day, I don't think, no matter what, people are gonna distort whatever happens or whatever they hear into their own agenda.

[00:06:06] **JUDGE ROACH:** And so what's the point? Um, and again, that noise affects people. It affects the fairness of the trial, the safety of the witnesses, the safety of the jury, and those are my primary concerns, not what social media says.

[00:06:19] **INTERVIEWER:** No, the,

[00:06:20] **JUDGE ROACH:** yeah- And it's not my duty. I don't think it's my job to feed social media or the media, uh, stuff.

[00:06:25] **JUDGE ROACH:** I certainly understand the role that media plays in a case like this, um, but I'm not here to feed it, and I took that very, very seriously.

[00:06:33] **INTERVIEWER:** But Judge, when people don't have access to the, the trial or the courtroom- Doesn't it invite speculation?

[00:06:42] **JUDGE ROACH:** Well, uh, sort of, but here's... I got 70 seats in my courtroom, and I had 200 requests by the media to sit in the courtroom.

[00:06:50] **JUDGE ROACH:** So let's say if I just entertain that, the press, then I have nobody from the public watching what's going on in their county. And so I had to do a balance between the media's right to know and to be able to report what's going on, because I think that's

extraordinarily important. Mm. I think it's important that the general public had access to the courtroom and to see what was going on.

[00:07:08] **JUDGE ROACH:** Um, and so I tried to balance all those things with the primary, again, uh, purpose of having a fair trial, and I think I d- I struck that balance pretty well.

[00:07:16] **INTERVIEWER:** But the, the media's right to know is the public's right to know, um, is the public's access. We are the extension of that public.

[00:07:24] **JUDGE ROACH:** I think somebody from the public that would come, wanted to come watch a trial and know that they were excluded from a trial because all the media was there, um, I'd, I beg to differ.

[00:07:35] **INTERVIEWER:** Do you think there was a possibility for a learning experience? I mean, people want... People do not know about how trial works. Mm-hmm. Uh, do you think that this, this may have been an opportunity for people to know how it truly works and that kind of erases some of the, the, the, the, the negative notions of, of, of, of court and trial and justice?

[00:07:53] **INTERVIEWER:** I'm

[00:07:53] **JUDGE ROACH:** doing this interview with you to make sure that people understand how the system works. Uh, and if they really wanted to, and I mean this seriously, if they wanted to, they could have stood in line with everybody else-

[00:08:02] **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah ...

[00:08:02] **JUDGE ROACH:** uh, and had the 27 to 32, uh, public seats that we had in this courtroom that we rotated every day.

[00:08:08] **JUDGE ROACH:** And so was that important to them, uh, they could have made it in here.

[00:08:11] **INTERVIEWER:** How did you plan for some of the outside noise?

[00:08:14] **JUDGE ROACH:** Well, I, we certainly planned with the sheriff's office and the McKinney Police Department and the Allen Police Department and the Frisco Police Department. So those were talks that we were having eight months before the trial, uh, to ensure the safety of the people out in the parking lots.

[00:08:27] **JUDGE ROACH:** They certainly had a right to demonstrate, uh, and all, and I think we struck a very, very good balance to allow them to do that, at the same time, maintaining safety of everybody involved.

[00:08:38] **INTERVIEWER:** Did it affect your day-to-day decisions? It

[00:08:40] **JUDGE ROACH:** didn't. Actually, I didn't. Um, I came in from a different entrance from the courthouse.

[00:08:44] **JUDGE ROACH:** I didn't come in through the front. Um, I couldn't hear any noise at all from my office. Uh, the jurors were not facing the parking lot, so they didn't see anything or hear anything. And I think we did a marvelous job in isolating them and having them concentrate just on what was going on in this courtroom, which was my instruction from the very, very beginning.

[00:09:04] **INTERVIEWER:** What would... What made this trial different?

[00:09:08] **JUDGE ROACH:** I think it started off bad, and I-- it started off bad with the doxing and the swatting of the judge and the parties, the witnesses, and all that stuff. So I think it started off bad, and, and I'm gonna attribute that to social media. And I think social media got it wrong, and i-it is what it is. I think that's something we have to live with these days.

[00:09:28] **JUDGE ROACH:** Um, but I think it's my responsibility and other judges' responsibility to make sure no matter what's going on in social media, that someone can walk in a courthouse and get a fair trial

[00:09:40] **INTERVIEWER:** Did it make it very different when you realized a lot of your witnesses are young witnesses?

[00:09:45] **JUDGE ROACH:** No. Look, I've been doing this for 20 years.

[00:09:47] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, a lot of the witnesses come in all shapes and sizes and colors and all, and all that. Mm-hmm. And, um, so that, that was normal for me. What wasn't normal for me is to have those witnesses, um, be intimidated by things being said on social media because those young people rely on social media more than I certainly do.

[00:10:06] **JUDGE ROACH:** Yeah. And so that sure impacted me to make sure that they, uh, did not change their testimony, uh, they were willing to come in and tell the truth, uh, without fear of being doxxed or swatted and stuff. And so I took every precaution that I could, um, consistent with the law to make that happen.

[00:10:23] **INTERVIEWER:** I know Steve brought it up to you, and I know both sides probably brought it up as well.

[00:10:27] **INTERVIEWER:** The AI images of people claiming to be inside this courtroom.

[00:10:30] **JUDGE ROACH:** Yeah, that, that ticked me off a little bit because if you're gonna call yourself the press, then ... And people are gonna depend on you to tell them, uh, what's going on in this courtroom, then you should be telling the truth. And so, uh, Mr. Stoler, our public information officer, brought it to my attention that, uh, some news outlets, uh, were past-posting photos saying, "From inside the courtroom."

[00:10:51] **JUDGE ROACH:** And it wasn't my courtroom, it wasn't the witness, it, it wasn't their testimony, and, uh, that's tragic. Because, again, that just breeds the, the narrative that these

people wanna ... To cultivate in our community to drive a wedge between us, and I think that's terrible.

[00:11:09] **INTERVIEWER:** Since we're on the topic- Yeah ... of, of image-

[00:11:11] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh-huh

[00:11:12] **INTERVIEWER:** uh, c- can we talk about some of the drawings, uh, of you- Sure. I'll be glad to. Absolutely ... during the sketch artist? What do you think? What do you think?

[00:11:18] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, my wife would show me a drawing every once in a while of a court case going on, and I couldn't figure out who the judge was. And all, as an all in serious, uh, they, the sketch artist was awesome.

[00:11:28] **JUDGE ROACH:** She was very sweet. She was here every day, uh, putting her life's work into, into those images. Because we didn't have cameras in the courtroom, that's, that's the only visual that anybody got. She did a marvelous, marvelous job. I think I'm more handsome than what she portrayed, uh, overall, but I'll let, I'll let everybody else figure that out.

[00:11:47] **INTERVIEWER:** Did the jury get it right?

[00:11:48] **JUDGE ROACH:** Yeah, they did. You know why? Because, uh, they were picked based upon the law. Uh, they listened to the facts, um, that happened here in this very courtroom. Uh, and they got a verdict. And so that's the process, and whatever they say, um, they get it right.

[00:12:08] **INTERVIEWER:** There's gonna be a lot of scrutiny over voir dire.

[00:12:10] **JUDGE ROACH:** Mm-hmm.

[00:12:10] **INTERVIEWER:** And you excused, uh, y- you, um, denied, ki- denied the defense, um, a- and th- the dismissing of three jurors who at least identified as African American on their bio forms. Um, what, what did you make of that moment?

[00:12:25] **JUDGE ROACH:** Well, that's not exactly how it works. The defense didn't dismiss them. Uh- Uh,

[00:12:28] **INTERVIEWER:** and I'm sorry, the defense r- raised an objection.

[00:12:30] **JUDGE ROACH:** They raised an objection, yeah. Yeah. They have raised an objection. Like I told you before, as long as I follow the law, uh, I sleep well at night, and I'm telling you, I followed the law in that case. Uh, did I know, well, the, what the perception was gonna be? Sure. I, I knew in the back of my mind what the perception was gonna be, but I'm not here to satisfy perceptions.

[00:12:50] **JUDGE ROACH:** I'm not here to satisfy agendas. I'm not here to do any of those things. I'm here to follow the law, and I did it to a T, and I'm proud of that, very proud of that.

[00:12:59] **INTERVIEWER:** Is this your last big trial?

[00:13:00] **JUDGE ROACH:** It's my last big trial. The sad part about it is, I will tell you before I leave at the end of the year, I'll try a couple more murder cases, for example.

[00:13:08] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, the, the parking lot won't be full. Uh, the gallery won't be full of people watching the case, but we still have somebody who's died and someone accused of doing the killing. Uh, and it won't draw the attention that this case did, and their death is no less tragic, uh, than the, the tragic death of the young man, uh, in this case.

[00:13:29] **JUDGE ROACH:** And so, uh, big trial, I guess, from an outside per- outsider's perspective and the- Yeah ... the social media and the media interest in the case. Uh, but crime still happens in Collin County, and every single person deserves to have as fair of a trial that Karmelo Anthony had.

[00:13:49] **INTERVIEWER:** What's your take on Karmelo Anthony?

[00:13:53] **JUDGE ROACH:** I don't know. I, I really don't know. Uh, he- You've had

[00:13:56] **INTERVIEWER:** a lot of defen- you've had a lot of defendants in your courtroom.

[00:13:58] **JUDGE ROACH:** I have had a lot of defendants in my courtroom, and I talked to Mr. Anthony a couple times because I'm legally required to go over some things with him. Uh, he seems like a, a nice young man, um, who committed a crime, and he understands today, uh, more than any day before today, the consequences of committing a crime like, like he did.

[00:14:24] **INTERVIEWER:** Last question.

[00:14:25] **JUDGE ROACH:** Yes, sir.

[00:14:25] **INTERVIEWER:** The future of the justice system

[00:14:31] **INTERVIEWER:** What do you think about it when you realize you have all these social media influencers and citizen journalists?

[00:14:37] **JUDGE ROACH:** I don't know. I, I hope, uh, that the judges that hear cases, hear cases period. I was about to say high-profile cases- Yeah ... but that's not it. It's just any case, um, realizes the importance of their job, and their job is to be fair, uh, to the state and to the defendant, and to protect the people that come before them, and make just and right decisions based upon the law.

[00:15:01] **JUDGE ROACH:** And if we can do that, that's great. Uh, the im- the influence of social media, I think, is gonna continue to impact our communities everywhere, and I hope that, um, we can rely upon our justice system to weed through the noise- Yeah ... and find justice for everybody who comes through our doors.

[00:15:19] **INTERVIEWER:** This is a personal question

[00:15:21] **JUDGE ROACH:** I

[00:15:22] **INTERVIEWER:** wanted to ask you.

[00:15:22] **INTERVIEWER:** Yeah. Okay, sure. Uh, do you understand why the legitimate media had to be a pain in your ass?

[00:15:26] **JUDGE ROACH:** Legitimate media There's this guy named Jobin- ... who I think was probably my, the worst, uh, of all of them. And no, I didn't understand how he could be that way. Um, look, I absolutely understand the media's role in all this.

[00:15:41] **JUDGE ROACH:** I mean, that, it's the First Amendment for a reason. It is absolutely the First Amendment for a reason. Um, but at the same time, a defendant is ri- has a right to a fair trial, and the prosecution has a right to a fair trial. That's also in the Constitution. And so you just have to balance all those interests.

[00:15:57] **JUDGE ROACH:** And, and I'll honestly say I think I balanced it well, and I know I made people mad, but I'm not here to make them happy either. Uh, I hope that the Metcalfs, uh, think that their son, uh, got a fair trial in this courtroom, uh, as do I hope that the Anthony family thinks their son got a fair trial in this courtroom.

[00:16:17] **JUDGE ROACH:** I certainly think he did.

[00:16:18] **INTERVIEWER:** Did you feel the pressure of, of the other courts not being able to operate too?

[00:16:21] **JUDGE ROACH:** So, of course, they're independent elected officials. They don't have ... They can operate if they want to. Yeah.

[00:16:26] **INTERVIEWER:** And they, some of them have-

[00:16:27] **JUDGE ROACH:** Um, they have ...

[00:16:28] **INTERVIEWER:** virtually.

[00:16:28] **JUDGE ROACH:** They have. Um, we were trying to cut down on the sheriff's duty to transporting back and forth and stuff.

[00:16:34] **JUDGE ROACH:** And so I asked them if they could modify, um, the way they are operating in court. Um, they could go to Zoom like we did for- Yeah ... a long time. They could, you know, pick- Yeah ... days that we weren't here, like on that Tue- first Tuesday. Yeah. Um, yeah, but it's up to them. Okay. Um, it helped a lot that they cooperated.

[00:16:52] **JUDGE ROACH:** And by the way, that's one of the messages that I don't think I've been saying enough, is, uh, what we did here was a well-oiled machine. I, I don't see, I, I've never seen a case- Do you

[00:17:02] **INTERVIEWER:** want that on the record?

[00:17:03] **JUDGE ROACH:** Sure. Okay. Yeah, we're rolling. We're rolling. Okay. The case that we tried here in Collin County, uh, was a well-oiled machine.

[00:17:10] **JUDGE ROACH:** I mean, Collin County, it should be the model for high-profile cases from here on out, and that's because we started eight months ago. And I met with anybody from facilities to IT to the audiovisual people to, uh, the sheriff's office. Uh, we constantly came together and met to make sure that, uh, Collin County was gonna be a focus for a minute.

[00:17:34] **JUDGE ROACH:** And we wanted to make sure that the, everybody understood that, number one, don't come around and mess with Collin County. Uh, and because we're here for a job, that job is to make sure that everybody gets a fair trial and everybody's safe. Uh, and we want it to go seamlessly. And one thing that does worry me a little bit is people go, "Oh, this was a five-day case with the evidence.

[00:17:54] **JUDGE ROACH:** Five-day case, it must have been cut and dry." Mm-hmm. Um, I don't know if that's true or not. It was five days because I wasn't wasting anybody's time. Uh, our community needed to heal quickly. Uh, w- they needed this case over, um, one way or another. Uh, but the case had to be fair first. But w- we accomplished that, but it was a gargantuan effort by every single person involved in Collin County and outside Collin County.

[00:18:18] **JUDGE ROACH:** And so we're very, very proud of our county, um, all of our employees, all of our elected officials, all of our judges, um, everybody in getting this case tried quickly, uh, because our community needed it to heal.

[00:18:33] **INTERVIEWER:** Thank you, Judge, for talking with us.

[00:18:34] **JUDGE ROACH:** Uh, sure.

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**CAUSE NO. 296-83565-2025**

|                          |   |                       |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| THE STATE OF TEXAS       | § | IN THE 296TH JUDICIAL |
|                          | § |                       |
| VS.                      | § | DISTRICT COURT        |
|                          | § |                       |
| KARMELO SINCERE ANTHONY, | § | COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS  |
| Defendant.               | § |                       |

**AFFIDAVIT OF RUSSELL WILSON II AUTHENTICATING EXHIBITS TO  
DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL AND MOTION TO RECUSE**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| STATE OF TEXAS   | § |
| COUNTY OF DALLAS | § |

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Russell Wilson II, who, being by me duly sworn, deposed and stated:

1. My name is Russell Wilson II. I am over the age of eighteen years, of sound mind, and in all respects competent to make this affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein, and they are true and correct.
2. I am the lead counsel of record for Defendant Karmelo Sincere Anthony in the above-styled and -numbered cause. I make this affidavit to authenticate the following exhibits, each of which I have personally reviewed. The same exhibits are offered in support of both Defendant's Motion for New Trial and Brief in Support and Defendant's Verified Motion to Recuse; because the two motions number their exhibits differently, I identify each item by its designation in each motion.
3. The Recording (Motion for New Trial Exhibit 4; Motion to Recuse Exhibit C). After the televised interview of the Honorable John R. Roach, Jr. by WFAA-TV (Channel 8) aired on or about June 11, 2026, I obtained and personally viewed a video recording of it as broadcast and published by WFAA-TV. The video file ("Judge Roach WFAA Interview.mp4") is a true and accurate copy of that interview as broadcast and published, and it has not been altered, edited, or modified in any way. A copy of the Recording is filed conventionally with the Clerk of this Court on a USB flash drive as an exhibit not amenable to electronic filing, under a Notice of Conventional Filing, and is designated Motion for New Trial Exhibit 4 and Motion to Recuse Exhibit C.
4. The Transcript (Motion for New Trial Exhibit 3; Motion to Recuse Exhibit A). After obtaining the Recording, I caused a written transcript of it to be prepared. The initial draft was generated with the assistance of transcription software. I then listened to the Recording in its entirety and compared the transcript against the Recording word for word, correcting each

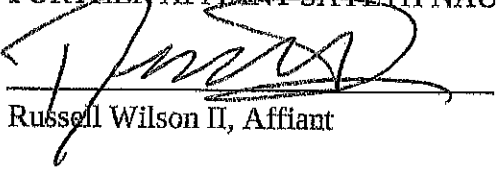
discrepancy I identified, and giving particular attention to the passages quoted in the motions. Based on that review, the Transcript is a true and accurate transcription of the words spoken in the Recording. The Transcript is offered as an aid to the Recording and not as a substitute for it; to the extent any discrepancy exists between the two, the Recording controls.

5. The Order Prohibiting Extrajudicial Statements (the attachment to Motion for New Trial Exhibit 1; Motion to Recuse Exhibit B). The document so designated is a true and accurate copy of the Order Prohibiting Extrajudicial Statements ("Gag Order"), signed July 28, 2025 and filed in this cause, which I have reviewed.

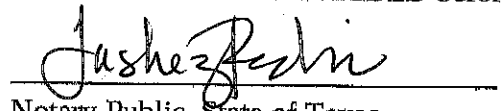
6. The Statement to Fox News (Motion for New Trial Exhibit 5; Motion to Recuse Exhibit D). I personally observed and reviewed the written statement of the Honorable John R. Roach, Jr. to Fox News concerning this cause. The document so designated is a true and accurate copy of that statement as published, which I have compared to the statement as published.

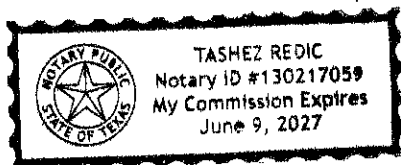
7. The Public Letter (Motion for New Trial Exhibit 6; Motion to Recuse Exhibit E). I personally accessed, observed, and reviewed the public letter of the Honorable John R. Roach, Jr. titled "Thank You Letter from Judge John Roach," dated June 17, 2026, as published on the official website of Collin County, Texas. The document so designated is a true and accurate copy of that letter as published on the County's official website.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

  
Russell Wilson II, Affiant

SWORN TO and SUBSCRIBED before me by Russell Wilson II on the 5th day of July, 2026.

  
Notary Public, State of Texas



# EXHIBIT B

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Order Prohibiting Extrajudicial Statements (“Gag Order”), signed  
July 28, 2025.

|                         |   |                                     |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| THE STATE OF TEXAS      | § | COLLIN COUNTY, TEXAS                |
|                         | § |                                     |
| VS                      | § |                                     |
|                         | § |                                     |
| KARMELO SINCERE ANTHONY | § | 296 <sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT |

**ORDER PROHIBITING EXTRAJUDICIAL STATEMENTS**  
**("GAG ORDER")**

**1. PURPOSE & AUTHORITY**

The Court finds that extensive pretrial publicity poses a serious risk to the fairness of the trial. Pursuant to the inherent authority of this Court and consistent with the United States and Texas Constitutions the Court **ORDERS** the following:

**2. PARTIES SUBJECT TO ORDER**

This Order binds the following individuals and entities ("Covered Persons"):

- All parties to this action and their attorneys;
- Witnesses, expert consultants, agents, and spokespersons;
- Law enforcement personnel, courthouse/court staff, and court-appointed officials.

**3. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

Unless first approved in writing by the Court, no Covered Person shall make any extrajudicial statement that;

- a. Addresses the character, credibility, expected testimony, guilt, or innocence of any party or witness;
- b. Discusses evidence anticipated to be introduced at trial;
- c. Identifies or comments on jurors, jury selection, or deliberations;
- d. Intends or is likely to influence public opinion or potential jurors.

These restrictions apply to statements made via any public medium, including traditional news outlets and social media.

**4. PERMITTED COMMUNICATIONS**

Allowed communications include:

- a. Procedural announcements (e.g., hearing schedules, court filings);
- b. Statements required by legal or ethical duties (e.g., advising clients of rights).

## 5. COURT FINDINGS

The Court finds:

- a. Media coverage has the potential to cause imminent and irreparable harm to the defendant's right to a fair trial;
- b. Alternative measures (venue change, juror screening, sequestration) would be inadequate alone;
- c. Narrowly applied speech restrictions are necessary to protect juror impartiality.

## 6. DURATION

This Order shall remain in force until verdict or until further written order of this Court.

## 7. SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Any violation may result in contempt, fines, attorney discipline, or other remedies as the Court judges appropriate.

## 8. NOTICE & CERTIFICATION

Within seven (7) days of this Order, counsel for each party shall serve a copy on all Covered Persons and file a Certificate of Compliance confirming notice.

Filed: July 28, 2025  
Michael Gould  
District Clerk  
Collin County, Texas  
By: Bese, Jaime

2:04 PM

Deputy



JUDGE JOHN ROACH

July 28, 2025

7-28-25

# EXHIBIT C

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Video recording of the WFAA-TV interview of Judge John R. Roach.

**VIDEO EXHIBIT — filed conventionally on USB under a separate Notice of  
Conventional Filing. The verified transcript is Exhibit A.**

# EXHIBIT D

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Written statement of Judge John R. Roach to Fox News.



**Brooke Taylor** ✓

@Brooketaylortv



Judge John Roach tells me he released the evidence because:

“I understood the public’s desire to know what happened in the courtroom. The overwhelming focus on my ruling regarding the media in courtroom was to protect the process, witnesses, and jury. Now that the trial is over, it is important to me to provide transparency.”

6:28 PM · Jun 19, 2026 · **120.1K** Views



9



20



408



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# EXHIBIT E

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Public letter of Judge John R. Roach titled “Thank You Letter from  
Judge John Roach,” dated June 17, 2026.

**COLLIN  
COUNTY****SERVICES****GOVERNMENT****PUBLIC SAFETY & COURTS****BUSINESS & LIVING****NEWS**

Page Navigation

**Details****Collin County Public Information Office Press Release**For more information, contact the [✉ Collin County Public Information Office.](#)

## Thank You Letter from Judge John Roach

Jun 17, 2026 | by Judge John Roach

**JOHN R. ROACH, JR.**Judge, 296th Judicial District Court  
Collin County Courthouse  
McKinney, Texas 75071

Judicial gavel

To the Members of the Collin County Family:

As the presiding judge of the 296th District Court during the recent trial of State of Texas v. Karmelo Anthony, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the countless individuals and agencies whose professionalism, dedication, and cooperation made it possible for the Court to fulfill its most fundamental responsibility: ensuring the fair, orderly, and secure administration of justice.

Trials that attract significant public attention require extraordinary preparation behind the scenes. While much of the public focus is naturally directed toward what occurs inside the courtroom, the truth is that the work of administering justice depends upon the collective efforts of many people, most of whom serve quietly and without recognition.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the Collin County Commissioners Court for its unwavering support and commitment to ensuring that the resources necessary to conduct this proceeding were available. I am equally grateful to our Budget Department, Information Technology Department, Human Resources Department, Auditor's Office, CSCD, Public Works, and Facilities Department, each of which responded to challenges with professionalism, flexibility, and a willingness to do whatever was necessary to meet the moment.

I offer special thanks to the District Clerk's Office and Jury Services staff for their tireless efforts in managing the enormous logistical demands associated with jury selection and trial administration. Their work ensured that citizens called to serve were treated with dignity and respect throughout the process.

I also wish to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the Collin County Sheriffs Office, whose deputies and leadership devoted countless hours to maintaining the safety and security of all participants while preserving the integrity and decorum of the judicial process.

My gratitude extends to the Texas Department of Public Safety and to our law enforcement partners from the McKinney, Allen, Frisco, and Plano Police Departments. Their collaboration, planning, and visible presence provided reassurance and protection to all who entered the courthouse.

I likewise thank the Collin County and McKinney Fire Marshal's Offices for their expertise and assistance in ensuring that appropriate safety protocols and emergency preparations were in place.

I would also be remiss if I did not recognize my fellow judges of Collin County. Throughout these proceedings, they modified already demanding schedules, adjusted their own dockets, and accommodated the unique needs of this case without hesitation. They understood that ensuring the orderly administration of justice in one courtroom often requires sacrifice and flexibility throughout the entire courthouse. Their willingness to loan members of their staffs, including their invaluable bailiffs, provided critical support and exemplified the collegiality, professionalism, and spirit of service that define our judiciary. I am deeply grateful for their friendship, cooperation, and steadfast commitment to our shared mission.

Most personally, I want to recognize the remarkable staff of the 296th District Court. Their long hours, attention to detail, patience under pressure, and steadfast commitment to public service were indispensable. They represented this Court and this county with excellence.

Finally, to everyone else who played a role-whether through planning meetings, operational support, communications, security preparations, technical assistance, administrative coordination, or simply a willingness to answer the call when needed-please know that your contributions mattered. The public often sees only the final product. I had the privilege of witnessing the countless acts of professionalism and teamwork that made that final product possible.

The administration of justice is one of our community's most solemn responsibilities. This trial demonstrated what can be accomplished when dedicated public servants from different offices and agencies work together toward a common purpose.

Regardless of title or assignment, each of you contributed to ensuring that the process was conducted fairly, safely, and with the dignity our citizens deserve.

It has been one of the great honors of my judicial career to serve alongside individuals of such character and professionalism.

On behalf of the 296th District Court, thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering commitment to the people of Collin County.

With sincere appreciation,



Judge John Roach

296th Judicial District Court

## Attachments

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 [Judge Roach Thank You Letter](#)

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**Metro:** (972) 424-  
1460

[Website](#)  
[Feedback](#)

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### **Automated Certificate of eService**

This automated certificate of service was created by the eFiling system. The filer served this document via email generated by the eFiling system on the date and to the persons listed below. The rules governing certificates of service have not changed. Filers must still provide a certificate of service that complies with all applicable rules.

Russell Wilson on behalf of Russell Wilson

Bar No. 794870

russell@russellwilsonlaw.com

Envelope ID: 116996926

Filing Code Description: Motion

Filing Description: Motion to Recuse and Exhibits in Support

Status as of 7/7/2026 8:19 AM CST

#### Case Contacts

| Name        | BarNumber | Email                      | TimestampSubmitted  | Status |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------|
| Mike Howard |           | mhoward@mikehowardlaw.com  | 7/7/2026 8:00:03 AM | SENT   |
| Bill Wirsky |           | bwirsky@collincountytx.gov | 7/7/2026 8:00:03 AM | SENT   |