



KENNETH MAGIDSON

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

Oct. 27, 2008

News Release

District Attorney's Public Information Office:
Donna Hawkins
George Flynn
713-755-3320

Funding Ceremony 3 p.m. Today

DA, District Clerk Create Efficiencies in Digital Storage

(Houston, TX) – Harris County District Attorney Kenneth Magidson will present \$225,000 to District Clerk Theresa Chang on Monday (Oct. 27) in a uniquely cooperative program to digitally archive about 20,000 boxes of DA felony litigation files.

“This is a prime example of county government working together on a project that will produce new efficiencies for our citizens,” Magidson said. “It makes good sense to share resources and maximize effectiveness.”

Taxpayer funds will not be used for the project. It will be paid for through the District Attorney's Asset Forfeiture Fund, which comes from the DA's share of money and other assets seized from criminal enterprises such as drug-dealing, gambling and prostitution.

Computerized scanning and archiving of the mountains of records, which are required to be retained, will vastly reduce storage costs for the DA's Office. Magidson explained that, rather than create new DA software programs for the digital storage, he turned to the District Clerk and her proven DEEDS system. It is ready to go without developmental delays, he said.

The project also features a computer “firewall” to safeguard the security of the stored documents, Magidson explained.

“I am glad we can help the District Attorney's Office manage its many records electronically with the software developed by my programmers of the Technical Bureau,” District Clerk Chang said.

“My office has stored about 33 million documents electronically and has cut the cost of storing and retrieving them by using that same software,” she said. “I'm glad the taxpayers will benefit even more from our work but this would not have happened without Mr. Magidson's vision.”

Magidson will formally present the \$225,000 check to Chang in a 3 p.m. Monday ceremony. It will be held in the DA's conference room on the 6th floor of the Criminal Justice Center at 1201 Franklin St. The media is invited to attend.

(End)

