|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Belinda Hill**  **First Assistant**  Immediate Release  January 20, 2014 | **Harris County District Attorney**  **DEVON ANDERSON** | **Criminal Justice Center**  **1201 Franklin, Suite 600**  **Houston, Texas 77002 901**  **Contact**  Camille Hepola  Jeff McShan  (713) 755-0122 |

Judge Rules HCDAO’s Firearms Training Simulator Process Does Not Influence Grand Jurors

On January 29, 2014, defendant William Driver filed a Motion to Quash an Indictment against him claiming that some members of the Grand Jury were influenced after participating in the Firearms Training Simulator.

The Firearms Training Simulator is made available by the Harris County District Attorney’s Office to any member of a Grand Jury as part of their initial orientation.

Today, Harris County District Court Judge Frank Price denied the Motion to Quash. In his Findings of Fact he wrote, “The Firearms Training Simulator process accurately explains the law regarding the use of force and deadly force to any participating grand jurors, and does not have any influence or affect otherwise.”

Judge Price’s ruling also stated, “The Firearms Training Simulator does not over-emphasize the viewpoint of a law enforcement officer.”

As part of his Conclusions of Law, Judge Price wrote, “The Defendant has failed to prove any grand juror’s participation in the Firearms Training Simulator caused, or could have caused the Grand Jury that indicted the Defendant to be biased against the Defendant in any way.”

The Harris County District Attorney’s Office will continue to allow grand jurors the opportunity to take the Firearms Training Simulator class. Both defense attorneys and prosecutors will participate as instructors.