

January 26, 2024

Dear Attorney General Paxton,

It is with deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve you and the people of Texas, mixed with sadness at my departure, that I hereby tender my resignation as Deputy First Assistant Attorney General, effective February 9.

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve under your leadership, together with a talented and determined team. Under your direction, we have accomplished so much in the three-plus years that I have been with the Office of the Attorney General. We have taken on some of the most consequential legal and constitutional litigation, in varied and important areas: COVID-19, energy and environmental regulation, Big Tech, upholding election laws, criminal justice, the sanctity of life, and fighting for the freedoms of speech and of religion.

These are weighty matters. But the core of our accomplishments, as I see it, has been in holding the Biden Administration accountable to the Constitution, federalism, the rule of law, and democratic lawmaking. We have sued it over sixty times, with an enviable rate of success, in service of those ideals that undergird our Republic. On immigration issues, in particular, you have led the nation in demanding that the federal government enforce the laws as enacted by Congress; and, when it refuses, that it allow Texas – and other states – to take common-sense measures to police the border and to protect their citizens. You have achieved so much in pushing back against federal overreach and restoring federalism to its rightful place in our system, and I consider myself privileged to have played a small part in that.

I say "a small part" not out of modesty, but out of recognition that you and First Assistant Brent Webster have assembled at OAG a great team – whose professionalism, collegiality, and friendship I have been blessed with and from whom I have greatly benefited.

Thank you for your leadership, your friendship, and the opportunity to serve the great State of Texas that you have given me. God bless you, and the dedicated men and women who will continue to serve Texas in the Office of the Attorney General.

With gratitude and respect,

Frant Dortman