

# Jack Thorp

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY JACK THORP'S RESPONSE TO THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS RULING IN *STATE v. HOGNER***

In anticipation of the ruling from the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals I the *Hogner* case, District 27 has been proactive in aiding the Cherokee Nation and the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma to prepare for the volume of cases they will now be prosecuting. While we continue to hope for congressional action allowing the Tribes to compact with the State of Oklahoma for the handling of criminal matters, we will continue to do everything possible to help the Cherokee Nation and the federal government seek justice for victims of crime, hold offenders accountable and protect public safety.

My heart is broken and my prayers are focused on the victims and their families who will most adversely be effected by this ruling. They must continue to endure the criminal justice system and in many cases restart the process with a different prosecuting entity. It is likely that in many cases, defendants serving prison sentences for crimes involving homicide, rape, molestation, robbery, and other violent crimes could be released back into the community while they await charging decisions by the Cherokee Nation and/or the United States Attorney's Office, if they can even be retried at all due to statute of limitations and other potential evidentiary issues. We expect the Court's ruling will be effective approximately twenty (20) days from today.

District 27 is comprised of Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah and Wagoner Counties.

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