



Kim Ogg will Prosecute White Collar Crime and Protect Business

In Harris County, criminals smart enough to embezzle or steal through cyber fraud go largely uninvestigated or prosecuted. Millions of dollars are lost to businesses each year by white collar criminals who know that as long as they steal using paper, they are generally not going to jail. Business owners who call the police to report such crimes are often surprised to learn that law enforcement does not have the resources to investigate criminal acts that occur in the marketplace. The Harris County District Attorney's Office response is frequently to label such crimes civil matters, meaning that to obtain relief they must sue. This cost on top of the loss is often too much, and some small businesses are shuttered following a serious fraud or embezzlement incident. Others are forced to lay off employees while they financially recover. Meanwhile, the criminals move to their next victims.

The Harris County District Attorney currently invests little in her White Collar Crime Division. Typically they file less than 100 cases per year, often waiting so long that the possibility of restitution recovery is lost. Internally, assignment to the division is NOT a pathway to promotion, so assistant district attorneys who seek advancement do not apply. When the division does accept criminal cases, they operate inefficiently, wasting hours of expensive attorney man-power and forensic accounting time and obtaining verdicts that fail to bring the victims justice.

As a candidate for Harris County District Attorney, Kim Ogg has pledged to fully fund a White Collar Crime Task Force and prosecutorial division worthy of the Houston marketplace. She will add experienced investigators and recruit attorneys familiar with the practice area to the division and streamline the investigation process so that more cases can be accepted. No longer will the criminals armed with computers and pens be immune from justice.

Dan Weiss and Greg Giles