HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REQUEST FOR INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL

DATE: May 22, 2007

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S): John A. Wright
Lucky Lamons

TOPIC OF THE PROPOSAL:

Violent Crime, Prosecutor Workloads & Resource Challenges Facing Prosecutors

EXPLANATORY COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY PROPOSAL:

The safety of Oklahoma's citizens and effectiveness of its criminal justice system depends, in large part, on the performance of its District Attorneys. The prosecutor is often forgotten in discussions of the criminal justice system. In fact, the "system" is often viewed in three parts: the police, the court and corrections. This overlooks a key component in the system: the prosecutor.

Violent Crime has placed increased demands on prosecutors, particularly in urban areas. At the same time, we have seen dramatic shifts in population and demographics that affect the criminal justice system. The need for adequate resources to address violent crime should be a constant concern of legislators, policy makers, and criminal justice professionals who are expected to protect and serve the public.

This study could assess current and project future prosecutorial resource needs across all districts in the state.

As the attorneys for the people, prosecutors across Oklahoma face the constant challenge of enforcing our laws and protecting the public with limited resources. This study would be a first step toward ensuring the effective and efficient administration of justice in Oklahoma.

The results of this study will provide the members of the Oklahoma Legislature with valuable information needed to deliberate and determine appropriate prosecutorial resource allocations throughout the state, thereby protecting the public and effectively directing resources to address the safety of our communities and neighborhoods.

FILE IN CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE **PROPOSAL NUMBER** 07-38

5-22-07 JH