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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PACDL Statement on the Release of the Report of the 40th Statewide Investigating Grand Jury

Harrisburg, PA (August 16, 2018) – The Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (PACDL) today issued the following statement from Bradley A. Winnick, PACDL President in response to the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s comments regarding the 40th Statewide Investigating Grand Jury Report (Interim-Redacted).

“As part of the release of the Grand Jury Report, the Pennsylvania Attorney General denounced the legal efforts of individuals who sought to protect their Constitutional due process rights and the judicial process that protects those rights through sealed court filings. He further accused these petitioners of trying to “cover up the cover up” and claimed that they lack “courage to tell the public who they are.”

PACDL denounces any prosecutor’s statement that undermines protecting the due process rights of individuals accused of crime and attaches derogatory intent to legitimate efforts of aggrieved individuals to assert and vindicate their rights. Equal justice under law is not mere rhetoric. It stands for and demands protecting the rights of individuals including those who risk the erroneous deprivation of their fundamental, constitutional reputational and due process rights afforded by Article I of Pennsylvania’s Constitution.

As stated in *Wood v. Hughes*, ‘[i]n the public mind, accusation by report is indistinguishable from accusation by indictment and subjects those against whom it is directed to the same public condemnation and opprobrium as if they had been indicted.’ (9 N.Y.2d 144, 154, 173 N.E.2d 21, 26 (1961)).”

The Pennsylvania Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (PACDL) is the leading advocate for Pennsylvania’s criminal defense bar. PACDL and its members are brave defenders of the Pennsylvania Constitutional rights of the accused. PACDL supports criminal justice reform through judicial and legislative advocacy.

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