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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Coles County State's Attorney's Office was made aware of an allegation against Assistant State's Attorney Allen over the weekend. The complaint of prosecutorial misconduct against Mr. Allen was filed in the Coles County Circuit Clerk's Office on Friday, August 21, 2020 after the close of business. The complaint was then forwarded to private media by a source other than the Circuit Clerk prior to being provided to this office. It was through that private media source that I first learned of any such allegations. I immediately began an internal investigation as well as took steps to have an outside agency begin an investigation.

My Office has a zero-tolerance policy in regards to any abuse of power. The conversations between Mr. Allen and the complainant are unrepresentative of the character and standard of professional conduct of the Coles County State's Attorney's Office. Such conduct is not tolerated and pursuant to this office's mission to hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards, Mr. Allen is no longer employed with the Coles County State's Attorney's Office.

It is apparent that further investigation is needed to fully understand the accuracy and scope of these allegations. Furthermore, I have requested that such an investigation be conducted by the Illinois State Police in conjunction with the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Office. My Office will cooperate fully and transparently with those agencies as they see fit.

We are here for victims, their families, and to keep this community safe. Mr. Allen's actions were unknown to my office and not condoned in any way. This Office has and will continue to have a zero-tolerance policy for any abuse of power and I continue to support the ends of justice to the fullest measure.

JESSE DANLEY, State's Attorney