

Matthew B. Howard
Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office

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BACKGROUND, EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Matthew B. Howard is the Director of the Bexar County Conviction Integrity Unit. He has been with the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office since June of 2013. He has tried several dozen misdemeanors, felonies, and is board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Criminal Law. He has been with the Bexar County Conviction Integrity Unit since 2015.

Before moving to San Antonio, Matthew earned his B.A. in Political Science from Baylor University in Waco. He then attended St. Mary's University School of Law, in San Antonio, where he earned his J.D. and met his wife, Julie.

Matthew has had an active role in over a dozen cases recognized by the National Registry of Exonerations. He also worked with the Center for Death Penalty Litigation to develop the record and reach an agreement to a reformed sentence for an 11.071 applicant who had originally been sentenced to death. Many of these exonerations and reformed sentences have involved post-conviction discovery and disclosures.

The exoneration of Devin Lamar Lynn, a justice involved individual experiencing homelessness, led Matthew to establish the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office Second Chance for Success Program in 2021. The program is designed to provide post-conviction support to individuals experiencing homelessness in Bexar County. Shortly thereafter, Matthew began working with local judges to direct the creation of the Community Courts in San Antonio, providing a dedicated safe space for justice involved individuals experiencing homelessness.

Matthew has spoken at multiple continuing legal education events on writs of habeas corpus, root cause analysis, and post-conviction forensics. He has also served as a liaison to the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice in summits on best practices in post-conviction. He was a contributor on the Center's "Guidelines for Collaboration and Engagement: Prosecutors and Defense Counsel Working Together in Joint Post-Conviction Investigations," published in 2022.

Matthew enjoys running, jumping, and collecting rocks with his five-year-old son. His wife, Julie Howard, is a State practitioner in Children's Court and became board certified in child welfare law earlier this year. Their living room is an eclectic mix of O'Connor's books, coffee cups, and a Pembroke Welsh Corgi who recently celebrated his tenth birthday. Matthew will be joining St. Mary's University School of Law as an Adjunct Professor, discussing wrongful convictions and habeas corpus, in Spring of 2024.