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Texas Office of the Attorney General Names Wichita Falls Child Support Employee Assistant Attorney General of the Year Koonce was singled out as the region's top attorney for her dedication to Texas children

Wichita Falls – The Office of the Attorney General recognized Whitney Koonce, an Assistant Attorney General (AAG) in the Child Support Division's Wichita Falls office, for her commitment to Texas children. Koonce was named Assistant Attorney General of the Year for the Child Support Division's Region 1. She was presented with the award on Monday, August 1, 2022, at the Statewide Assistant Attorneys General Virtual Conference.

"I commend Whitney for her hard work and dedication to improving the lives of Texas children and families," Attorney General Paxton said. "Whitney represents the best, and it is attorneys like her that make this agency great. I am thankful to her for answering the call to serve the people of Texas."

One Assistant Attorney General was selected for this honor from each of the state's ten child support regions, along with an Assistant Attorney General from the Child Support Division headquarters office in Austin. Honorees are chosen based on recommendations from their peers and supervisors, focusing on employees willing to go beyond their normal duties to serve Texas children. Each recipient demonstrates a desire to serve Texas families, help their colleagues, and enhance the Attorney General's Child Support Division.

Koonce, who joined the Office of the Attorney General in 2015, represents the State of Texas in legal actions to establish paternity between children of unmarried parents and their biological fathers. She also works to establish, enforce, and modify court orders requiring parents to provide child support, medical support, and dental support.

A graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law, Koonce was chosen as the region's Assistant Attorney General of the Year for being an exemplary attorney, willing trainer, and strong leader. She has demonstrated the willingness to take on any task and provide wise legal direction to her co-workers. She has earned a reputation as a reliable leader.

"Ms. Koonce is the ultimate team player and is the first to take on other duties, whether volunteering to cover a docket or reviewing pleadings for another office. She is well-versed in the law and agency policy and is integral in advising and training on difficult legal matters. Whitney exhibits a strong work ethic and positive attitude, which help to ensure the success of the office and the region," said Region 1 Managing Attorney Angela Jacob-Ware.



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The Attorney General's Child Support Division offers an array of services to help families, including locating absent parents; establishing paternity for children born to unmarried parents; establishing, enforcing, and modifying child and medical support orders; and collecting and distributing child support payments.

For more information about the Office of the Attorney General and the child support services it offers, call (800) 252-8014 or visit the agency's website at <u>www.texasattorneygeneral.gov</u>.

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