



JOHN R. ROACH, JR.

Judge, 296th Judicial District Court
Collin County Courthouse
McKinney, Texas 75071

June 16, 2026

To the Members of the Collin County Family:

As the presiding judge of the 296th District Court during the recent trial of *State of Texas v. Karmelo Anthony*, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the countless individuals and agencies whose professionalism, dedication, and cooperation made it possible for the Court to fulfill its most fundamental responsibility: ensuring the fair, orderly, and secure administration of justice.

Trials that attract significant public attention require extraordinary preparation behind the scenes. While much of the public focus is naturally directed toward what occurs inside the courtroom, the truth is that the work of administering justice depends upon the collective efforts of many people, most of whom serve quietly and without recognition.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the Collin County Commissioners Court for its unwavering support and commitment to ensuring that the resources necessary to conduct this proceeding were available. I am equally grateful to our Budget Department, Information Technology Department, Human Resources Department, Auditor's Office, CSCD, Public Works, and Facilities Department, each of which responded to challenges with professionalism, flexibility, and a willingness to do whatever was necessary to meet the moment.

I offer special thanks to the District Clerk's Office and Jury Services staff for their tireless efforts in managing the enormous logistical demands associated with jury selection and trial administration. Their work ensured that citizens called to serve were treated with dignity and respect throughout the process.

I also wish to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the Collin County Sheriff's Office, whose deputies and leadership devoted countless hours to maintaining the safety and security of all participants while preserving the integrity and decorum of the judicial process.

My gratitude extends to the Texas Department of Public Safety and to our law enforcement partners from the McKinney, Allen, Frisco, and Plano Police Departments. Their collaboration, planning, and visible presence provided reassurance and protection to all who entered the courthouse.

I likewise thank the Collin County and McKinney Fire Marshal's Offices for their expertise and assistance in ensuring that appropriate safety protocols and emergency preparations were in place.

I would also be remiss if I did not recognize my fellow judges of Collin County. Throughout these proceedings, they modified already demanding schedules, adjusted their own dockets, and accommodated the unique needs of this case without hesitation. They understood that ensuring the orderly administration of justice in one courtroom often requires sacrifice and flexibility throughout the entire courthouse. Their willingness to loan members of their staffs, including their invaluable bailiffs, provided critical support and exemplified the collegiality, professionalism, and spirit of service that define our judiciary. I am deeply grateful for their friendship, cooperation, and steadfast commitment to our shared mission.

Most personally, I want to recognize the remarkable staff of the 296th District Court. Their long hours, attention to detail, patience under pressure, and steadfast commitment to public service were indispensable. They represented this Court and this county with excellence.

Finally, to everyone else who played a role—whether through planning meetings, operational support, communications, security preparations, technical assistance, administrative coordination, or simply a willingness to answer the call when needed—please know that your contributions mattered. The public often sees only the final product. I had the privilege of witnessing the countless acts of professionalism and teamwork that made that final product possible.

The administration of justice is one of our community's most solemn responsibilities. This trial demonstrated what can be accomplished when dedicated public servants from different offices and agencies work together toward a common purpose. Regardless of title or assignment, each of you contributed to ensuring that the process was conducted fairly, safely, and with the dignity our citizens deserve.

It has been one of the great honors of my judicial career to serve alongside individuals of such character and professionalism.

On behalf of the 296th District Court, thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering commitment to the people of Collin County.

With sincere appreciation,



Judge John Roach
296th Judicial District Court
