

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2021

Statement from Julie Young Regarding Sexual Harassment in the Texas Capitol

(TEXAS) – Today, the *Texas Tribune* published a story detailing acts of sexual harassment by then-staffer and present-day HillCo lobbyist Rick Dennis. Julie Young, who currently serves as Committee Director for the House Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Committee, provided specific information to the *Texas Tribune* regarding Mr. Dennis' actions towards her and others when they worked together for Representative Tan Parker in 2015, as well as his time as a lobbyist.

Mrs. Young released the following statement regarding the matter:

“I share the facts of my experience with sexual harassment, and the facts regarding who I told and when, to ensure there is a clear and public record on the matter. Not everyone is comfortable sharing their stories, and I understand that. But for those of us who can, we must – to change the culture, and ensure that predators who refuse to respect women as equals are held accountable for their actions.”

“I want to be absolutely clear – Mr. Dennis was a predator to staffers during his time in Rep. Tan Parker’s office and continued to be during his time at HillCo. ‘Locker room talk’ is not standing over the shoulder of a twenty-one-year-old girl and whispering in her ear, ‘That’s how Daddy likes it.’ Any call of concern for him only falls on deaf ears to those of us in the Capitol community who have been made victims of his abusive and harassing behavior for years. If we continue to ignore his behavior, we are condoning him and dismissing the staffers who have suffered.”

Julie Young graduated from the University of Miami in December 2008 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in October 2009. She then worked as a court appointed public defender for indigent children and adults. She moved to Texas in December 2014 and was admitted to the Texas Bar in December 2015. Since January 2015, Mrs. Young has served as a Committee Director for Republicans and Democrats in the Texas House.

FOR FUTURE MEDIA REQUESTS

Mrs. Young is working diligently to complete her work at the Legislature and will not be accepting any further interview requests at this time. If you would like to submit a request for future comment, should Mrs. Young choose to issue one, please contact Phillip Martin by email at philliptxhdc@gmail.com, and he will notify you of her availability. Phillip is a friend of Mrs. Young, and currently serves as Executive Director for the Texas House Democratic Caucus.