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PRESS RELEASE

**Chester County Attorney Joshua Janis
Arrested for Fraud Yet Again**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of attorney Joshua Janis on charges of defrauding an additional three legal clients of a total of \$8,000. The defendant already has been arrested for defrauding 29 former clients and for theft charges relating to his wife as a victim. The defendant was admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania in 2006. His law license was suspended for five years in 2015. The total sum of alleged thefts from former clients is now in excess of \$100,000, in addition to the thefts from his wife.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "The defendant engaged in a seemingly never-ending series of frauds. And we are still looking at him for other potential criminal schemes. We will not quit until we have uncovered the full scope of his criminal conduct."

The defendant is 38 years old. During the relevant time period, he resided in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. From 2006 to 2013, he worked for a law firm in West Chester, Pennsylvania. He started his own law firm in Downingtown in 2013 and moved around to various other locations in Chester County until his law license was suspended in 2015.

The allegations from the criminal complaint¹ are as follows:

During the period of 2014 to 2015, the defendant received payments from clients in Chester County to represent them in legal matters. As an attorney, the defendant was obligated to deposit client payments into an interest of lawyer account (“IOLTA”), where fees for legal services could be debited in accordance with an attorney-client contract.

The defendant defrauded three clients when he received legal retainer payments respectively of \$2,500, \$2,500, and \$3,000 and failed to deposit those funds into the trust account as required. Furthermore, the defendant failed to provide the promised legal services for those funds. The clients who were defrauded had paid the defendant to perform legal services relating to child custody cases and divorce proceedings.

The defendant is charged with Theft by Failure to Make Required Disposition of Funds, Receiving Stolen Property, and Theft by Deception. The defendant’s bail was set at \$10,000 unsecured and his preliminary hearing is scheduled for February 15, 2019.

The Chester County Detectives investigated this matter. The assigned prosecutor is Chief Deputy District Attorney Ron Yen. Anyone with additional information should contact Chester County Detective Bob Dougherty at 610-344-6866.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.