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### **Statement of Gloria Allred**

Today, I am here in Big Spring, Texas to support the victims at the sentencing of former Police Detective Joel Rojo in the case of State vs. Rojo.

I was asked to attend by Linda, who is the mother of one of the minor victims in the case. Linda had contacted the police in Big Springs to ask that they investigate what she believed to have been a sexual crime against her then 14 year old daughter.

Big Spring Police Detective Joel Rojo was assigned to investigate the case. Linda trusted him to act professionally in the course of his investigation and to uphold what she had every right to believe would be the high standards of law enforcement as they investigated any crime, but in particular any allegation of a crime against a child.

Unfortunately, however, Linda was shocked to learn later that Detective Rojo had betrayed her trust and the trust of the community of Big Spring.

Detective Rojo used and abused his position as a detective to take advantage of a vulnerable child victim.

Linda's daughter had been taught to trust, respect and obey the police.

Detective Rojo took advantage of that trust and used the pretext of investigating an alleged sex crime against the child, in order to sexually exploit and abuse Linda's daughter.

A jury convicted him of a crime against the child and crimes involving sexual abuse against 2 other child victims as well. For his crimes against his victims he was convicted of indecency with a child by sexual conduct, sexual performance by a child, indecency with a child by exposure and attempted indecency with a child by exposure.

Given the gravity and severity of the crimes against children, Linda and her daughter wanted Detective Rojo to receive the maximum sentence possible under the law.

Detective Rojo has not only brought shame on himself, but in addition he has disgraced others in law enforcement who work hard every day to earn the respect and uphold the high standards of law enforcement.

Further, he has hurt Linda's child and destroyed the trust that she had in him, all law enforcement, and in other adults who are in a position of authority.

Detective Rojo was a sexual predator and he used his uniform, his badge, and his position to hurt and sexually exploit children. He acted under color of law not to protect and serve but to

sexually abuse and harm a child. The only interest he served was his own and today he was forced to face the consequences of his betrayal of this child and the other victims that he hurt.

As a lawyer, I have been supporting and representing victims of child sexual abuse for 41 years. There can be no excuse or justification for such crimes against children.

I am honored to have been asked to come to Big Spring today to support this mother and her daughter.

Linda is dedicated to supporting and protecting children, not only her own daughter but the children of others as well.

I look forward to continuing to support them along with my co-counsel, Texas Attorney Morgan Stewart, in their efforts to ensure that what happened to Linda's daughter never happens again and that those who are responsible be held accountable for their failure to protect children.

Statement of Gloria Allred  
Attorney At Law  
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