



**BEXAR COUNTY
PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE
MICHAEL L. YOUNG, CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Antonio, Texas (August 16, 2021)

On June 18, 2021, the Bexar County Public Defender's Office, along with the Texas Fair Defense Project, filed a lawsuit on behalf of Ms. Janie Villeda challenging Texas Governor Greg Abbott's Executive Order GA-13. This lawsuit alleges the Governor's order is unconstitutional and exceeds his authority under the Texas Disaster Act. Today, the Hon. Ron Rangel, 379th District Court, Bexar County, Texas issued his order in this case. Judge Rangel ruled that Executive Order GA-13 is "wholly unconstitutional."

In its pleadings, the Bexar County Public Defender's Office alleged Ms. Villeda had served enough of her sentence to be released from the Bexar County Jail. However, Sheriff Javier Salazar could not comply with the law allowing her release because of the Governor's order. Judge Rangel concluded the Governor's order violated the Texas Constitution.

"The ruling by Judge Rangel restores the provisions of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure that Governor Abbott unconstitutionally tried to suspend", said Michael Young, Bexar County Chief Public Defender. Young continued, "Sheriff Javier Salazar, Bexar County Judges and all Bexar County officials are now free to enforce the laws passed by our legislature and make decisions that are in the best interests of the citizens of Bexar County".