STATE OF COLORADO

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Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

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EXECUTIVE ORDER

Designating State's Prosecutor to Investigate Conduct of District Attorney John Newsome

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Office of the Governor of the State of Colorado, and in particular Colorado Revised Statute § 24-31-101(1)(a), I, Bill Ritter, Jr., Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order designating John W. Suthers, Attorney General for the State of Colorado, as the State's prosecutor, to investigate and, if appropriate, prosecute criminal matters related to possible criminal conduct by John Newsome, District Attorney for the Fourth Judicial District.

I. Background and Purpose

On October 20, 2007, Fourth Judicial District Attorney John Newsome traveled at state expense to Chicago, Illinois to interview a witness in a Colorado Springs homicide case. Mr. Newsome did not return to Colorado until Sunday, October 22. In the intervening days, he traveled from Chicago to South Bend, Indiana to attend a University of Notre Dame football game. The travel costs associated with this trip – car rental, gas, per diem, and hotel expenses, totaled $699. Mr. Newsome requested and received reimbursement for these costs. In April 2008, after a media inquiry, Mr. Newsome reimbursed the county for the majority of these expenses.

Mr. Newsome is a sitting district attorney and, thus, not subject to investigation by his own office. Because the allegations against Mr. Newsom concern official misconduct, it is not appropriate to request a sitting district attorney in another judicial district to investigate this matter. I am, therefore, designating the Attorney General to appear for the State of Colorado to investigate, and if appropriate, to prosecute any potential criminal wrongdoing related to Mr. Newsome's conduct.

II. Directive

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute § 24-31-101(1)(a), I hereby appoint John W. Suthers, Attorney General for the State of Colorado, to be the State's prosecutor and authorize him to take all necessary actions to investigate and, if he deems it appropriate and if supported by the evidence, prosecute, on behalf of the State of Colorado, misuse of state funds or abuse of the public trust by John Newsome, including conduct related to his October 2007 trip.

III. Duration

Unless modified or rescinded by future Executive Order of the Governor, this appointment and the directive in this Executive Order shall expire upon completion of the Attorney General's investigation and, if deemed appropriate and supported by the evidence, the prosecution of Mr. Newsome.

GIVEN under my hand and
the Executive Seal of the
State of Colorado, this twenty-eighth
day of July, 2008.

Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor