



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

NOV 16 2017

The Honorable Ken Paxton
Attorney General
State of Texas
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Attorney General Paxton:

This letter is in regard to Texas's March 11, 2013, request for certification of its system for providing counsel in postconviction proceedings for prisoners subject to a capital sentence. On August 22, 2017, the Attorney General directed the Office of Legal Policy to manage the certification review process for state capital counsel mechanisms under Chapter 154 of Title 28, United States Code, and the implementing regulations. *See* 28 C.F.R. Part 26, Subpart B; 78 Fed. Reg. 58,160 *et seq.*

This week, the Office of Legal Policy published a notice in the Federal Register and began a 60-day public comment period with regard to Texas's request. As the Department of Justice (Department) begins review of Texas's capital counsel mechanism, we would like to confirm that the materials previously submitted are still current. Accordingly, please advise the Department within 30 days of this letter if Texas wishes to supplement, modify, or update its request for certification.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen E. Boyd".

Stephen E. Boyd
Assistant Attorney General