

Press Coverage | July 8, 2026

Texas Feels the Fallout as Federal White-Collar Cases Decline

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[Paul Coggins](#), a partner in Troutman Pepper Locke's [White Collar Litigation + Investigations](#) Practice Group, was quoted in the July 8, 2026, *Texas Lawbook* article, "[Texas Feels the Fallout as Federal White-Collar Cases Decline](#)." Paul's quote also appeared in *The Houston Chronicle*, *The Dallas Morning News*, and *Yahoo! News*.

[Paul Coggins](#), a former U.S. prosecutor for the Northern District of Texas, said that he was troubled by the pattern. "Looking at these numbers, I would say white collar is being hampered," said Coggins, who is now a partner at Troutman Pepper Locke in Dallas specializing in white collar defense.

He was particularly troubled by the drop in federal environmental and tax sentences. "That is a reflection of the EPA in bringing these cases," Coggins said. "And frankly, a reflection that the IRS has been starved of resources."

The DOJ has redirected tax investigators and FBI agents from their traditional duties to immigration enforcement, he said.

"It shows this is the golden age of tax fraud. We used to make a lot of tax cases because the [Criminal Investigation Division] was the best in the world at tracking money," Coggins said. "But they have been starved of funding."

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Coggins said he was concerned that the drop-off in federal white-collar prosecutions in Texas was more troubling than in other states, such as New York. In Texas, he said, county district attorneys rarely handle white collar prosecutions.

"The DA's offices in Texas, unlike the New York Manhattan district attorney's office, do mainly reactive crime: murder, robbery, rape, burglary, theft, those types of crimes," he said. "That consumes those offices. That means if a white collar case is going to get worked, it is likely going to get worked in the U.S. attorney's office. If the U.S. attorney's offices are not handling much white-collar work, that means nobody is doing it."

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