

# LOBBY WATCH

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Slam-Dunk Junk:

November 7, 2011

## Perot's Frivolous Mavs Suit Booted Out of State Court

Plaintiff Perot gave \$250,000 to Anti-Lawsuit PAC TLR *After Filing a Lawsuit Alleging that Mark Cuban Mismanaged the World-Champ Dallas Mavericks.*

**Mavericks Decisively Defeat the Miami Heat—and a Billionaire Ambulance Chaser.**

Can a plaintiff who files a poignantly frivolous lawsuit expiate his sin by contributing \$250,000 to the anti-lawsuit PAC Texans for Lawsuit Reform?

Four months after filing his 2010 lawsuit against Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, billionaire H. Ross Perot, Jr. contributed \$250,000 to Texans for Lawsuit Reform's PAC (TLR). Perot's TLR check marked him as a member of the elite 1 percent owning class. Just five tycoons gave TLR more money in the 2010 election cycle. Yet Perot gave TLR more than mere money. TLR thrives on publicizing egregious examples of "junk lawsuits." The junior Perot handed them one on an HRP-engraved silver platter.

Perot sold Cuban a majority share of the Dallas Mavericks basketball team in 2000 but retained a minority interest in the club. A decade later Perot filed a lawsuit in state court in Dallas alleging that Cuban's Mavericks "made a litany of questionable business, financial and personnel decisions." It paid "one of the highest payrolls in the NBA," the complaint says, incurred "debt in excess of \$200 million" and put the venture "in imminent danger of insolvency."<sup>1</sup> Perot demanded that Cuban pay him actual and punitive damages and that the court put the team into receivership.

Cuban clearly did not take the thrifty "Moneyball" approach to winning pioneered by the Oakland A's. Nonetheless, it was an awkward moment for plaintiff Perot when the Mavericks won their first NBA championship this June. Apart from defeating the Miami Heat, the Mavericks mocked civil claims that their team was mismanaged.

Cuban formally petitioned the court for a summary judgment in his favor 10 days after winning the trophy.

### Top Texans for Lawsuit Reform Donors, 2009 & 2010

Amount	PAC Contributor	Company	City
\$825,000	Harold Simmons	Contran Corp.	Dallas
\$600,000	Bob Perry	Perry Homes	Houston
\$515,000	Anthony Annunziato	AAA Capital	Houston
\$500,909	Richard Weekley	Weekley Properties	Houston
\$500,000	Richard McNair	Cogen Tech./Texans	Houston
\$250,000	Peter Holt	Holt Companies	San Antonio
<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>H. Ross Perot, Jr.</b>	<b>Hillwood Development</b>	<b>Dallas</b>
\$250,000	Trevor Rees-Jones	Chief Oil & Gas	Dallas
\$250,000	Kelcy Warren	Energy Transfer Partners	Houston

That motion identified the defendants as the “World Champion Dallas Mavericks” and included a photo of the team celebrating its championship victory. State

District Judge Craig Smith handed the Mavericks another victory on November 3, throwing out Perot’s lawsuit and ordering the plaintiff to “take nothing.”



The Dallas Mavericks defeat civil allegations that their team was mismanaged.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> “*Hillwood Investment Properties, III, LTD et al. vs. Radical Mavericks Management LLC et al.*,” Cause No. 10-05639, 192 District Court, Dallas County. Original complaint filed May 10, 2010.