



★ TEXAS SUPREME COURT ★ DOLLAR DOCKET

In Texas, 48% of judges and 79% of lawyers say contributions significantly influence judicial decisions. - Texas Supreme Court poll

TEXANS FOR PUBLIC JUSTICE • 609 W. 18th St., Ste. E, Austin, TX 78701 • 512-472-9770

January 31, 2000

Classic Koch

Members of the Texas Supreme Court sent a Christmas present to a top campaign donor recently when they reversed a lower court's decision and issued a per curiam ruling favoring Koch Industries (pronounced "Coke").

In its December 16, 1999 Koch v. Chapa opinion, the court ruled that Koch was not responsible for an injured contract worker, despite the fact that a Koch employee was monitoring safety on the worksite.

A politically active polluter, Koch is one of the largest U.S. privately held companies. Just one week after the Texas Supreme Court issued its ruling for Koch, a federal jury recommended that Koch pay \$553,504 for pilfering oil from government and Native American lands. In another recent federal case, Koch settled land and water pollution claims—including Texas pollution claims—for \$35 million.

In Texas, Koch invests heavily in the very judges who adjudicate lawsuits against the company. The Fred and Mary Koch Foundation is a substantial funder of the Economics Institute for State Judges, which sends judges—including Justice Craig Enoch—on expense-paid seminar retreats to Utah and Florida. Enoch also sits on the seminar's advisory board.

Koch has contributed \$13,500 to Texas Supreme Court justices since 1994. Koch's defense firm—Porter Rogers Dahlman & Gordon—gave justices \$5,000. Co-defendant H&S Construction and its defense attorneys at Hunt, Hermansen McKibben & Villareal contributed another \$20,000 to justices.

Koch v. Chapa is one more classic example of the court ruling for its campaign contributors.

January Dollar Docket

Cases heard by the Texas Supreme Court in January and the corresponding contributions to justices from the parties and/or attorneys.

January 5, 2000

<i>Keck, Mahin & Cate v.</i>	\$ 114,673
<i>National Union Fire Ins.</i>	\$ 11,100
<i>Waco ISD v.</i>	\$ 9,655
<i>Gibson</i>	\$ 0
<i>Bland ISD v.</i>	\$ 135,655
<i>Blue</i>	\$ 200

January 12, 2000

<i>Kroger Co. v.</i>	\$ 14,950
<i>Keng</i>	\$ 0
<i>Barnett v.</i>	\$ 0
<i>Barnett</i>	\$ 0

January 19, 2000

<i>Torrington Co. v</i>	\$ 318,530
<i>Stutzman</i>	\$ 51,250
<i>Utts, M.D. v.</i>	\$ 3,850
<i>Short</i>	\$ 1,000
<i>Walmart Stores v.</i>	\$ 4,850
<i>Sturgis</i>	\$ 0

January 26, 2000

<i>Am. Airlines Credit Union v.</i>	\$ 47,975
<i>Martin</i>	\$ 0
<i>Lehmann v.</i>	\$ 0
<i>Har-Con Corp.</i>	\$ 2,250
<i>Harris v.</i>	\$ 0
<i>Harbour Title Co.</i>	\$ 1,850
<i>McNeilly v.</i>	\$ 0
<i>Royal Insurance Co.</i>	\$ 70,850

Total for January: \$ 788,638