



# ★ 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

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## New Term Prediction:

### Money Will Flow With Cases In Tow

**A**s the Texas Supreme Court's new term begins, a large number of the all-Republican justices are stepping down or face re-election in 2002, potentially creating thousands of docket-driven fundraising conflicts.

Chief Justice Tom Phillips and Justice Deborah Hankinson must stand for election or step down. Justice Baker's retirement creates an open seat. New appointees Wallace Jefferson and Xavier Rodriguez must stand for election. Justice Priscilla Owen may be leaving the Texas high court for the Fifth Circuit. Hence, six of the nine seats at the Supreme Court may become vehicles for docket-driven fundraising, thereby further compromising our judiciary.

The latest July reports indicate that just Justice Jefferson has been filling his war chest (\$85,271). Chief Justice Phillips and Justice Hankinson have reportedly not raised cash, fueling speculation that they may be departing. Justice Rodriguez was too recently appointed to report any fundraising activity.

### Key Opinions Expected This Term And Associated Dollars

<i>Centex Homes v. Buecher</i>	\$376,863 \$0
<i>St. Joseph's Hospital v. Wolff</i>	\$156,399 \$0
<i>Johnson &amp; Chang v. Brewer &amp; Prichard</i>	\$131,209 \$0
<i>Rocor v. National Union Fire Ins.</i>	\$0 \$10,700
<i>Mariner Financial v. Bossley</i>	\$64,600 \$0

## September Dollar Docket

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

### September 5, 2001

<i>TNRCC v. IT-Davy</i>	\$0 \$204,088
<i>BMC Software Belgium v. Marchand</i>	\$271,980 \$0
<i>D. Houston v. Love</i>	\$36,150 \$0

### September 10, 2001

<i>Perry v. Wright</i> Consolidated with <i>Perry v. Cotera</i> Consolidated with <i>In re Ken Bentsen</i>	\$464,410*
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### September 19, 2001

<i>Utts v. Short</i>	\$3,350 \$1,000
<i>PRH Investments Inc. v. Glazner</i>	\$0 \$0
<i>Texas Municipal League v. TX. Workers Comp. Comm.</i>	\$272,130 \$196,221
<b>Total for September:</b>	<b>\$1,449,329</b>

\*The complex nature of this litigation required that all related money be presented as a single sum.

Democratic Justice Linda Yanez (\$7,500) of the 13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals is seeking Justice Baker's seat. Her possible opponent is GOP 1<sup>st</sup> Court of Appeals Chief Justice Michael Schneider (\$69,651). Also of the 1<sup>st</sup> Court, Justice Margaret Mirabal (D) is running against incumbent Justice Rodriguez (R).•