



★ 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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Business Judges Open for Business

A week after Sandra Day O'Connor swore in five newly elected Texas Supreme Court justices on January 6, high court candidates filed final 2002 campaign finance reports that provide the last word on who really won the election.

Even with chief justice candidates raising little money, major-party Supreme Court finalists raised more than \$5 million in their pursuit of five open seats. Every Republican prevailed, with the GOP fielding far and away the best-funded candidate in every race except that of new Justice Steven Smith.

Top Donors to 2002 Winners

Employer	Total to Winners
Vinson & Elkins	\$128,105
Baker Botts	\$105,025
Fulbright & Jaworski	\$73,145
Texans for Lawsuit Reform	\$55,910
Locke Liddell & Sapp	\$55,145
Bass Family	\$53,500
Haynes & Boone	\$52,264
Beirne Maynard & Parsons	\$52,044
Texas Medical Association	\$48,972
Bob Perry	\$45,000
Hillco PAC	\$40,000

Real winners

The election's true winners were the business interests that dug deep to ensure that their dream team trounced candidates who might be friendlier to consumers or workers. Of the \$3.2 million that the five newly elected

justices raised, 22 percent came from the PACs and employees of just 11 business interests.

Led by Vinson & Elkins, half of these big donors were corporate defense firms that have numerous cases before the court. Houston homebuilder Bob Perry arguably is the new justices' next-largest patron. Apart from the \$45,000 he gave directly, Perry supplied most of the PAC money raised by HillCo Partners lobby firm; he also is a top Texans for Lawsuit Reform donor.

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 8, 2003

<i>City of San Benito v.</i>	\$0
<i>Southern Union Co.</i>	\$96,904

January 15, 2003

<i>Forbes, Inc. v.</i>	\$1,025
<i>Granada Foods</i>	\$250
<i>Utica Insurance v.</i>	\$36,015
<i>American Indemnity</i>	\$8,300

<i>Delta Airlines v.</i>	\$100
<i>Black</i>	\$0

January 22, 2003

<i>City of Terrell Hills v.</i>	\$0
<i>Champion Builders</i>	\$3,700

<i>J&R Valley Oilfield Services v.</i>	\$17,700
<i>Garcia</i>	\$0

<i>Kerr McGee Corp. v.</i>	\$310,435
<i>Helton</i>	\$0

Grand Total for January: \$474,429

White-dog Republicans shape a Supreme race

A newly visible voting bloc of white-dog Republicans shaped the one race in which an under-funded candidate prevailed. In primary elections, these voters apparently prefer white, affirmative-action critics named "Smith" to minority incumbents named "Xavier Rodriguez." When he advanced to the general election, Steven Smith's party label helped overcome the huge 20-1 funding superiority of his Democratic opponent. New Justice Smith prevailed with less than \$40,000 in contributions and loans. •

Summary of January 15th Reports

Place/ Party	Candidate	Winner/ Loser	Total Raised	Raised Since 10/27/02	Spent Since 10/27/02	Cash on Hand 1/15/03
CJ/R	Phillips ⁱ	W	\$9,426	\$1,710	\$5,014	\$3,948
CJ/D	Baker	L	\$3,507	\$0	\$341	\$0
1/R	Schneider ⁱ	W	\$964,820	\$26,615	\$84,514	\$33,628
1/D	Yanez	L	\$429,903	\$27,120	\$115,002	\$17,716
2/R	Wainwright	W	\$1,084,367	\$53,133	\$63,928	\$75,852
2/D	Parsons	L	\$336,971	\$25,153	\$9,802	\$32,417
3/R	Jefferson ⁱ	W	\$1,170,046	\$37,939	\$126,434	\$48,536
3/D	Moody	L	\$240,300	\$7,425	\$36,905	\$9,381
4/D	Mirabal	L	\$826,926	\$64,933	\$146,466	\$49,364
4/R	Smith	W	\$28,465*	\$6,875	\$8,437	\$5,445
TOTALS:			\$5,094,731	\$250,903	\$596,843	\$276,287

* Steven Smith also reported receiving a \$10,000 Loan