



★ 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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March Money Madness

Texas Supreme Court justices again are raising more special-interest money than necessary—even though their own polls found that:

- 83 percent of Texans say judges are influenced by campaign contributions; and
- Just 1 percent of attorneys in Texas say campaign contributions have no influence on judicial opinions.

Candidate	War Chest	\$ Ratio	Vote
Valorie Davenport	\$7,650		36%
Nathan Hecht	\$554,197	72:1	65%
Rod Gorman	\$515		42%
Alberto Gonzales	\$538,967	1,047:1	58%

Incumbents Nathan Hecht and Alberto Gonzales raised \$1.1 million for the recent Republican primary. This was 134 times the \$8,165 raised by their opponents, who both lost by margins of more than 15 percentage points.

The Biggest Special-Interest Checks

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
\$20,000	Texans for Lawsuit Reform	Gonzales
\$14,000	Hughes & Luce	Gonzales
\$10,000	Hughes & Luce	Hecht

Though the incumbents did not need overwhelming funding advantages to win, they kept on raising special-interest money. Justice Hecht took 75 percent of his war chest from lawyers as well as tort interests affiliated with Texans for Lawsuit Reform and the Texas Civil Justice League. Justice Gonzales took 62 percent of his cash from these interests.

Texans for Lawsuit Reform wrote the biggest single check: \$20,000 to Justice Gonzales. Corporate defense firm Hughes & Luce wrote five-digit checks to both incumbents.

March Dollar Docket

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

March 1, 2000

<i>Sylvester Turner v.</i>	\$3,500
<i>KTRK Television</i>	\$83,650
<i>Rocor International v.</i>	\$0
<i>National Union Fire Ins.</i>	\$14,400

March 22, 2000

<i>Corpus Christi Diocese v.</i>	\$72,813
<i>Dewhurst</i>	\$51,650
<i>Stringer v.</i>	\$0
<i>Cendant Mortgage Corp.</i>	\$0
<i>Payne v.</i>	\$5,200
<i>Galen Hospital Corp</i>	\$18,650

Total for March: \$249,863