



★ 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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Two-Timer Courtship

Spring is in the air and some romantic donors are choosing between two candidates for the only Supreme Court seat being contested in Tuesday's Republican primary. Other contributors are playing it safe by showering money on both candidates.

Incumbent Justice Steven Smith raised \$95,080, according to disclosures

covering through March 1, and lent himself

\$20,000. Smith's challenger, San Antonio Appeals Court Judge Paul Green, raised five times as much: \$445,280.

Incumbents generally have the financial edge. But the Republican establishment has distanced itself from Smith over concerns that he is racially divisive. Smith litigated against University of Texas affirmative-action policies in the *Hopwood* case. He also ousted incumbent Justice Xavier Rodriguez in the 2002 primary—a result often attributed to GOP voters eschewing an ethnic name. Such voters face a tough choice Tuesday, when they must pick from the Anglo-Saxon-sounding names Paul Green *or* Steven Smith.

High Court Cash

GOP Place 5 All Money Cash		
Candidate	Raised	On Hand
Paul Green	\$445,280	\$86,397
Steven Smith	\$95,080	\$13,306
TOTALS:	\$540,360	\$99,703

Top Smith Contributors

Source (includes PAC & Employee money)	Smith Amount	Green Amount
Texans for Family Values	\$25,000	\$0
Bass family	\$10,000	\$10,000
Beirne Maynard & Parsons	\$5,500	\$2,600
Andrews & Kurth	\$5,000	\$5,000
Baker Botts	\$5,000	\$5,750
Baron & Budd	\$5,000	\$0
Lanier Law Firm	\$5,000	\$0
Vinson & Elkins	\$5,000	\$10,500

The Dollar Docket

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

February 4, 2004

TXDOT v. City of Sunset Valley \$0

In Re J.P. \$0

Shell Oil Co. v. HRN, Inc. \$245,578
\$8,500

February 11, 2004

Old American County Mutual Ins v. Sanchez \$61,979
\$1,000

Thomas v. Long \$0
\$0

February 18, 2004

Garza v. Exel Logistics, Inc. \$500
\$2,500

Centerpoint Energy v. Public Utility Commission \$87,050
\$0

BMG Direct Marketing v. Peake \$119,149
\$0

February 27, 2004

FFP Operating Partners Duenez \$190,023
\$0

Grand Total for February: \$716,279

Some wealthy donors simply bankroll both candidates. Five of the eight donors who gave Justice Smith at least \$5,000 also bankrolled his opponent. The craftiest two-timer was the oil-rich Bass family. One of its PACs gave to Green, its other two PACs backed Smith.

Smith's top donor, new PAC Texans for Family Values, is due to disclose its donors today. It appears to be run by asbestos attorney Mark Lanier, who gave Smith \$5,000.

Top Green Donors

Source (with PAC & Employee money)	Amount
Watts Law Firm	\$15,000
Akin Gump Strauss...	\$11,699
Vinson & Elkins	\$10,500
Bass family	\$10,000
USAA Group PAC	\$10,000