

News from TPJ

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For Immediate Release
June 3, 2014

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TPJ Brief Urges Top Court To Reinstate Tom DeLay's Conviction

Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to Hear Case June 18

Austin, Texas: Texans for Public Justice (TPJ) [filed an amicus brief](#) today with the [Texas Court of Criminal Appeals](#), urging that high court to reinstate Tom DeLay's convictions for criminal conspiracy and money laundering.

Texas anti-corruption laws have barred state candidates from using corporate funds since 1903. Yet DeLay's Texans for a Republican Majority PAC raised almost \$700,000 in corporate dollars and used those funds to help Republicans win a Texas House majority in 2002. A Travis County jury convicted DeLay in November 2010 of directing a criminal conspiracy to launder illegal corporate funds into Texas House campaigns. A state judge sentenced DeLay to three years in prison and five years of probation. In 2012 DeLay co-conspirators Jim Ellis and John Colyandro pled guilty to illegally using corporate campaign funds. Former congressional majority leader DeLay has remained free on bond pending appeals.

The only pro-DeLay ruling throughout this 12-year odyssey occurred last September, when two Republican judges on Austin's Third Court of Appeals found that there was insufficient evidence to sustain his conviction. The state's highest criminal court will review that ruling on June 18.

"An unbiased jury acted on overwhelming evidence that Tom DeLay committed these crimes," said TPJ Director Craig McDonald, who filed a 2003 [criminal complaint](#) against DeLay. "Two highly-partisan Republican judges gave DeLay a get-out-of-jail-free card he doesn't deserve. Facts show that DeLay and his co-conspirators knowingly broke Texas election laws."

TPJ's brief urges the court to ignore the high-profile case's many distractions to focus on the plain fact that the jury reasonably concluded that DeLay conspired to raise, launder and spend illegal corporate funds on Texas elections. TPJ is confident that judges who fairly address this question will overturn the partisan, result-oriented ruling by the Third Court of Appeals.

Austin-based criminal defense attorney [Keith S. Hampton](#) is representing TPJ in the case.

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