

# News Release

**Texans for Public Justice \*\* 609 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite E, \*\* Austin, TX 78701**

For Immediate Release:  
Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2012

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## **Abbott Spent \$2.2 Million—and Counting— Defending Racially Biased Redistricting**

### **These Costs More Than Double Previous Accountings**

Austin, TX: Billing records released by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott reveal that his office has spent \$2.2 million to defend a state redistricting map that federal judges ruled “intentionally discriminates” against Latinos, African Americans and other minorities. Recent news articles reported less than half of these costs because they focused on just one of two major redistricting cases.<sup>1</sup> Abbott’s costs are expected to continue to skyrocket as he seeks to reinstate the discriminatory maps by appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court for the second time.

Texans for Public Justice recently [obtained billing records](#) under the Public Information Act. They reveal that initial media accounts just reported on the least-costly of Abbott’s two major redistricting cases. The new records indicate that by September 7 Abbott’s office had spent at least \$973,057 on his failed federal lawsuit to garner pre-clearance for the state’s maps under the federal Voting Rights Act (*State of Texas v. United States of America*). This includes the \$385,795 in taxpayer funds that he paid to outside counsel at the Chicago-based firm of Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott.

Abbott spent even more to defend the discriminatory maps from challenges filed by state lawmakers and civil rights groups such as MALDEF and MALC. So far Abbott has spent \$1,171,648 on that litigation, which was consolidated into the case *Shannon Perez et. al. v. State of Texas*. This case prompted federal judges in San Antonio to draw the redistricting maps that will govern Texas’ November elections. Abbott’s expenses on this case include \$376,892 paid to the Washington-based firm Bancroft, PLLC.

The attorney general also disclosed spending another \$27,140 on a subset of expert witnesses whose costs were not broken down by the underlying redistricting case. By the end of the first week in September, then, Abbott reported spending a grand total of \$2,171,845 defending a state redistricting map that a three-judge panel of the D.C. Federal District Court found to be “intentionally discriminatory.”

### **Attorney General Abbott’s Redistricting Case Costs**

<b>Case/Legal Fee</b>	<b>Expenditures As of 9/7/2012</b>
<i>State of Texas v. United States</i>	\$973,057
<i>Perez v. State of Texas</i>	\$1,171,648
Misc. expert-witness fees	\$27,140
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,171,845</b>

### **Notes**

<sup>1</sup> “Lawsuits Costing Millions,” *Austin American-Statesman*, September 10, 2012. “Cost of Legal Fight Over Voter ID, Redistricting Tops \$2 Million,” *Dallas Morning News*, September 5, 2012.