

Williamson County Public Policy Coalition

To: Williamson County Judge Dan Gattis
Williamson County Precinct 4 Commissioner Ron Morrison

Date: January 20, 2011

Subject: Recusal from Duty grievance filing

Judge Gattis and Commissioner Morrison:

For the reasons discussed below, the undersigned believe that both of you should immediately recuse yourselves from any vote of the Williamson County Commissioners Court which involves County Attorney Jana Duty, including any commissioners court action which relates to the filing of a grievance against County Attorney Jana Duty or Jana Duty individually with the State Bar of Texas, or any similar controlling authority, or any other body that would have either civil, criminal or other jurisdiction over any issues relating to Ms. Duty. You both have conflicts of interest with respect to these matters that should prevent you from voting on any such court actions.

Judge Gattis has obvious conflicts of interest with respect to Ms. Duty based on, among other things, the removal lawsuit that she filed against him on December 22, 2010. In addition, in her lawsuit, Ms. Duty states an allegation that is focused on the two of you, namely, your alleged participation in acquiring the legal services of Potts & Reilly (a law firm, and Susan Potts in particular) to represent Williamson County prior to the time that the commissioners court properly authorized retaining that law firm.

Even though Judge Gattis is currently the only subject of a requested removal from office in Ms. Duty's lawsuit, it also appears that Commissioner Morrison was involved as well and also has a major vested interest in whatever the court does in connection with Ms. Duty.

It is reasonable to conclude that the initiatives currently being undertaken by you on the commissioners court, and any future actions, are and would be taken, at least in part, to adversely affect or undermine Ms. Duty's complaint to remove Gattis from office, as well as to name Morrison in the Potts & Reilly hiring event. Thus, the conflicts that each of you have appear obvious.

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In short, it seems without question to us, that each of you has conflicts of interest in participating in any initiative by commissioners court to file a grievance or take other steps against Ms. Duty, and therefore each of you must recuse yourself from any discussion or action, if and when commissioners court considers the grievance, or other actions, against Ms. Duty.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Maurice". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jeff Maurice

Jim Stauber

Jose Orta

Jane L. Van Praag

Mary Ellen Kersch

Jason Wirth

Jerry Tidwell

Carol Fox

Greg Douglass

J. Gerrie McCall

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