



COUNTY ATTORNEY

Fort Bend County, Texas

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FORT BEND COUNTY ATTORNEY SUBMITS LEGAL ACTION AGAINST MR. DANIEL WONG

RICHMOND, TEXAS — Today, Fort Bend County Attorney Bridgette Smith-Lawson filed a legal action because Daniel Wong has no lawful right to serve as Fort Bend County Judge. Mr. Wong's claim to that office rests solely on an April 10 court order issued in a civil removal case, and under Texas law that order is void and cannot give him legal title to the office.

Under Texas law, only the State, not a private individual, may maintain the kind of removal case that produced that April 10 order, and that case was later dismissed in its entirety. Once that case ended, any temporary authority tied to it ended as well, meaning there is no valid legal basis for Mr. Wong to continue holding himself out as County Judge.

In this filing, brought in the name of the State of Texas, the County Attorney asks the court to declare that Mr. Wong has no legal right to hold or exercise the office of Fort Bend County Judge and to remove any claim that he does. The County Attorney seeks court orders to prevent further confusion, protect confidential attorney-client communications, and avoid legally questionable county contracts and records while the case is pending.

“As Fort Bend County Attorney, I am acting squarely within my statutory duty to represent the State in District Court and to bring quo warranto proceedings when someone is alleged to be unlawfully holding a public office. This is an institutional responsibility assigned to my office by the Texas Constitution and Legislature; it is not a political or partisan decision. My obligation is to the law, to the institution of county government, and to the residents of Fort Bend County who expect their officials to serve under clear and lawful authority. Mr. Wong’s lawsuit against me is an effort to coerce, bully, and intimidate me from doing my duty as Fort Bend County Attorney,” said County Attorney Bridgette Smith-Lawson.

Additional information, including the County Attorney’s prior legal opinion and the court filing, will be made available through Fort Bend County public channels.

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