



For Immediate Release
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Statement on Joe Pool, Jr's Failed Lawsuit Against the Republican Party of Texas

AUSTIN -- Joe Pool, Jr., sued the Republican Party of Texas with the help of a big-name Democrat lawyer in a backdoor attempt to kick Justice Jeff Brown off the ballot on a technicality. On Monday, January 6, a Travis County district court heard Pool's case and ruled against him the same day. Pool lost outright, but his lawsuit cost the Republican Party donated money that could have been used fighting to keep Texas red.

The circumstances around Pool's candidacy have raised a lot of questions and the decision to sue the Republican Party raises even more.

Just months ago, Pool was running for the Texas Railroad Commission but then suddenly switched and filed to run against Justice Brown, Governor Rick Perry's pick to serve on the Texas Supreme Court. Stranger still is Pool's use of long-time Democratic Party lawyer Buck Wood to sue the Republican Party. Search-engine inquiries into Wood often source him as "Democrat lawyer," "Democrat Party lawyer" or "TDP lawyer" and link him to lawsuits against Governor Perry and other Republican Party leaders.

On the other hand, Perry, Justice Brown and Chief Justice Nathan Hecht made news recently when revered U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia traveled to Austin to administer the oath of office to the two justices.

In the days leading up to Christmas, Joe Pool demanded that the Republican Party of Texas strike Justice Brown from the ballot. The Republican Party responded to Pool's demand and visited with him and his son, Trent, to show that the Pools were wrong about

Justice Brown's ballot application. But even after the Republican Party gave the Pools this explanation, they chose litigation over submitting the choice to Republican voters and running a real campaign.

"The Republican Party has repeatedly assured Justice Brown that nothing in his application or petitions would warrant excluding his name from the ballot. The judge's ruling on Mr. Pool's lawsuit confirms that fact," said election attorney George Shipley of Shipley Snell Montgomery, LLP. Shipley along with Amy Maddux and Patrick Keel represented Justice Brown in the litigation.

"I am gratified that the court agreed with the Republican Party of Texas' position that my application and petitions met the statutory requirements for my placement on the ballot. I look forward to traveling the state speaking to Republican primary voters about my experience, conservative record, judicial philosophy and legal background," said Justice Jeff Brown.

Jeff Brown was appointed to the Supreme Court of Texas by Governor Rick Perry in September 2013. The appointment filled the vacancy that occurred when Gov. Perry appointed Justice Nathan Hecht as Chief Justice.



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