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GALVESTON DISTRICT JUDGE SIDES WITH MOSTYN LAW IN RULING REQUIRING LARRY TAYLOR TO PROVIDE DOCUMENTS AND TESTIMONY IN BROWNSVILLE ISD V TWIA CASE

A state senator and insurance agent must provide evidence and testify after ruling forces him to respond to allegations of abuse of power to influence state agency.

HOUSTON, TEXAS - JULY 09, 2014 - Last Thursday, Galveston County District Court Judge Bret Griffin denied Senator Larry Taylor's, R-Friendswood, motion to quash a deposition subpoena. According to Court records in Cause No. 2012-DCL-8605-A; Brownsville Independent School District v. Texas Windstorm Insurance Association, GAB Robins North America, Inc., Cunningham Lindsey, U.S., Inc., Reggie Warren, and Steve Borgman; In the 107th Judicial District Court of Cameron County, Texas Taylor was issued the subpoena for documents and testimony in the case after a February deposition of former head of Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), Jim Oliver, revealed that Taylor pressured the association head to fight insurance claims in court in order to avoid paying settlements, many relating to Hurricane Ike damages. Taylor claims that legislative immunity should protect him from having to testify.

Judge Griffin's order states, "...evidence in the record establishes that Senator Taylor engaged in speech that was not part of any protected legislative function or any protected legislative or committee process." The order also suggested that "evidence indicates that Senator Taylor engaged in political efforts to privately and personally influence the conduct of TWIA, including specifically TWIA General Manager James Oliver and TWIA's lawsuit settlement policies and decisions."

In spite of Senator Taylor's objections, because of Judge Griffin's ruling, he will be forced to provide documents and testimony over the personal and political influence he has exhorted over TWIA.

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