

10-5-7  
SEP 24 2014

GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS  
*[Signature]*  
DEPUTY

EX PARTE §  
HONORABLE MARK HENRY §  
AND GALVESTON COUNTY §  
COMMISSIONERS COURT §

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF  
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS  
56<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

On this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014, the Administrative Judge of the Galveston County District Courts considered the actions of the Honorable Mark Henry and the Galveston County Commissioners Court in terminating the employment of the Galveston County Justice Administrator on or about July 24, 2014, in proceeding to post the position for employment of a new justice administrator and in proceeding to interview candidates to fill the position. The authority to appoint and terminate court personnel lies with the courts, not the county judge nor the commissioners court and the county judge's termination of the justice administrator and proposed selection of a replacement violates the separation of powers doctrine and infringes on the courts' inherent powers. These actions also violate Local Government Code Sec. 151.004 which prohibits the county judge and commissioners court from attempting to influence the appointment of a person to a position authorized by the commissioners court for the department of another district, county or precinct officer in the county.

It is therefore ORDERED AND DECREED that the actions of the county judge and commissioners court of terminating the employment of the Galveston County Justice Administrator was a void act without legal authority and is hereby NULLIFIED and set aside. Further that the county judge and commissioners court are ordered to cease and desist the process of attempting to hire a new justice administrator.

SIGNED this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2014

*Lonnie Cox*

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Lonnie Cox, 56<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
Administrative District Judge