



For Immediate Release

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**Grassroots America Statement  
Civil Case Halted, Pending Results of Grand Jury Indictment  
of Smith County Judge Joel P. Baker**

Jim Parsons, the attorney pro-tem appointed by Judge David Peeples to represent the State in our civil case, has filed a Declination to Request Issuance of Citation notice to the Court. **What does this mean?**

This means our civil process to take Smith County Judge Joel P. Baker to trial to remove him from office is halted. This is done to avoid wasting judicial resources.

In his Declination notice, Attorney Pro-tem Jim Parsons cites “circumstances arising” as having made moot the issues raised in the petition. He is acknowledging that Joel Baker has already been “removed” from office via the State Commission on Judicial Conduct’s suspension of Judge Baker without pay due to last week’s three-count indictment by the Smith County grand jury. His removal - though not permanent – at this point, has satisfied the motivation of our civil suit.

Our attorneys will file a **Notice of Non-suit without Prejudice** with Judge Peeples. This means we agree a person should not be on trial at the same time for the same issue (the ATS contract-related cause). We also heartily agree with the conservation of judicial resources. This means we do not want the State (the People of Texas) to spend money on Judge Peeples and Jim Parsons serving in their appointed capacities unnecessarily. We agree the Texas Attorney General’s case (grand jury three-count indictment of Judge Joel Baker) should proceed through the justice system. If Mr. Baker is convicted on any one of those three counts, he will be removed from office.

If Mr. Baker is found innocent of the current indictment charges, and remains in office, we will come back with our petition for the removal of Smith County Judge Joel P. Baker by trial, based on the sexting cause cited in our filed case.

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