

TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, THIRD DISTRICT, AT AUSTIN

Alex E. Jones and Free Speech Systems, LLC v. Neil Heslin and
Scarlett Lewis

Jones v. Heslin · No. 03-23-00209-CV · Decided April 29, 2026

SUMMARY

The Texas Court of Appeals for the Third District addresses three appeals arising from the same Travis County trial-court cause. It abates and remands one appeal for findings concerning a supersedeas bond contest, leaves an existing stay in effect in another appeal, and temporarily stays a turnover order in the third appeal pending consideration of an emergency motion involving the bankruptcy automatic stay.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Texas Court of Appeals, Third District, at Austin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Chief Justice Byrne; Justice Kelly; Justice Ellis
JURISDICTION	Texas Court of Appeals, Third District, at Austin
DECIDED	April 29, 2026
DOCKET	03-23-00209-CV
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Three appeals arising from the same trial-court cause were before the Texas Court of Appeals. In the primary appeal, the court addressed a contest concerning a supersedeas bond; in the two related appeals, the court addressed turnover orders and requested stay relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published memorandum opinion and order
PARTIES	Alex E. Jones, Free Speech Systems, LLC v. Neil Heslin, Scarlett Lewis

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- civil procedure
- automatic stay
- remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

- Appellate procedure
- Civil procedure
- Bankruptcy

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the appeal in Cause No. 03-23-00209-CV should be abated and remanded for additional evidence and findings concerning the supersedeas bond contest.
2. Whether temporary orders were necessary to preserve the parties' rights concerning turnover orders in Causes Nos. 03-25-00617-CV and 03-25-00906-CV.

HOLDINGS

1. The appeal must be abated and remanded to the trial court to take evidence and make findings regarding the supersedeas bond contest, including events occurring since the trial court's October 6, 2025 order.
2. The existing stay of the turnover order in Cause No. 03-25-00617-CV remains in effect, and the turnover order in Cause No. 03-25-00906-CV is temporarily stayed pending further order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“This Court abates the appeal in Cause No. 03-23-00209-CV and remands that cause to the trial court to take evidence and make findings regarding the supersedeas bond contest.” (2)

“The appellate court may issue any temporary orders necessary to preserve the parties’ rights.” (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The appeals arose from a common trial-court cause involving a supersedeas bond contest and turnover orders. The trial court had entered an October 6, 2025 order concerning the plaintiffs' objection to a net-worth declaration and motion for sanctions. The appellate court directed that the trial court consider events occurring after that order and make additional findings.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The appeals arose from proceedings in the 261st and 459th District Courts of Travis County in cause number D-1-GN-18-001835. The court abated Cause No. 03-23-00209-CV and remanded it for the trial court to take evidence and make findings regarding the supersedeas bond contest. The court maintained an existing stay of the turnover order in Cause No. 03-25-00617-CV and temporarily stayed the turnover order in Cause No. 03-25-00906-CV pending further order.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The trial court shall take evidence and make findings regarding the supersedeas bond contest, including events occurring since its October 6, 2025 Order on Plaintiffs' Objection to Net Worth Declaration and Motion for Sanctions. The trial court shall direct that its order be filed with the appellate court in a supplemental clerk's record by May 29, 2026. The existing stay in Cause No. 03-25-00617-CV remains in effect, and the turnover order in Cause No. 03-25-00906-CV is temporarily stayed pending further order.

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