

FIFTEENTH COURT OF APPEALS OF TEXAS

In re Cedric M. Scott, PhD v. General Land Office of the State of Texas

In re Scott · No. 15-25-00227-CV · Decided December 9, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a pro se relator’s motion for emergency relief under Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 52.10 in a pending mandamus proceeding. The relator asks the Texas Fifteenth Court of Appeals to stay and prohibit enforcement of orders allegedly issued by a constitutionally disqualified trial judge, preserve the status quo, and grant temporary relief without prior notice. The motion concerns an underlying Travis County whistleblower action involving the General Land Office of the State of Texas.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Fifteenth Court of Appeals of Texas
JURISDICTION	Texas
DECIDED	December 9, 2025
DOCKET	15-25-00227-CV
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Relator filed a motion for emergency temporary relief under Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 52.10 while a petition for writ of mandamus was pending. The motion sought a stay of orders allegedly issued by a recused trial judge, prohibition of enforcement or reliance on those orders, and preservation of the status quo without prior notice.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	none; motion filing rather than judicial opinion
PARTIES	Cedric M. Scott, PhD, Relator v. General Land Office of the State of Texas, Real Party of Interest

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- injunctions
- writ of certiorari
- constitutional law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- appellate procedure
- civil procedure
- constitutional law
- remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court of appeals should grant temporary emergency relief under Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 52.10 to preserve its jurisdiction and prevent alleged irreparable harm while a mandamus petition is pending.
2. Whether the court should grant temporary relief without prior notice because immediate intervention was allegedly necessary to prevent irreparable injury or protect appellate jurisdiction.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The motion alleges that Judge Cory R. Liu issued orders in a whistleblower case while constitutionally disqualified because he had previously represented a party. According to the motion, those orders included a compelled-deposition order, orders setting hearings, and denials of dispositive motions. Relator further alleges that the judge recused himself on November 21, 2025, no successor judge had been appointed, and enforcement of the challenged orders would cause irreparable professional, financial, and procedural harm.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The matter originated in the 250th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, in Trial Court Cause No. D-1-GN-25-000006. Relator alleged that Judge Cory R. Liu recused himself on November 21, 2025, after issuing orders compelling a deposition, denying dispositive motions, and affecting the case's procedure. Relator filed a mandamus petition on December 5, 2025, accepted for filing on December 8, and filed this emergency-relief motion on December 9, 2025. The source contains the motion but no appellate ruling on it.

CASES CITED

- Buckholts I.S.D. v. Glaser, 632 S.W.2d 146, 148-49 (Tex. 1982)
- In re McAllen Medical Center, 275 S.W.3d 458, 466 (Tex. 2008)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

ACCEPTED 15-25-00227-CV FIFTEENTH COURT OF APPEALS AUSTIN, TEXAS 12/9/2025 1:24 AM CHRISTOPHER A. PRINE CLERK FILED IN IN THE FIFTEENTH COURT OF APPEALS 15th COURT OF APPEALS AUSTIN, TEXAS AT AUSTIN, TEXAS 12/9/2025 1:24:20 AM CHRISTOPHER A. PRINE Clerk Case No. 15-25-00227 - CV (Transferred from the Third Court of Appeals) IN RE CEDRIC M. SCOTT, PhD Relator, Pro Se v. GENERAL LAND OFFICE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS Real Party of Interest Original Proceeding from the 250th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas Trial Court Cause No. D-1-GN-25-000006 RELATOR'S MOTION FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF TO THE HONORABLE FIFTEENTH COURT OF APPEALS: Relator, Cedric M. Scott, PhD1, respectfully requests this Court for emergency temporary relief under Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 52.10 to preserve her rights and prevent irreparable harm while the Court considers her Petition for Writ of Mandamus filed December 5, 2025 and accepted for filing on December 8, 2025.

Emergency intervention is necessary because the orders issued by former presiding Judge Cory R. Liu—including orders compelling Relator’s deposition, denying dispositive motions, and affecting the procedural posture of the case— were issued while Judge Liu was constitutionally disqualified from the onset this whistleblower case.

As such, the orders are void ab initio, and enforcement of them would inflict additional irreparable harm on Relator, who currently has no successor trial judge available to correct or vacate the void orders. I. RELIEF REQUESTED Under TRAP 52.10, Relator respectfully requests that this Court:

1. Stay enforcement of all orders issued by Judge Cory R. Liu in Cause No. D-1-GN-25-000006, including but not limited to: • The order compelling Relator to appear for deposition, 1 Plaintiff’s first name is pronounced See-Drick and not Said-Drick.

Gender is female, and pronouns are she, her, and hers. 2 • The order setting hearings on motions, • The denial of Relator’s dispositive motions, and • Any procedural directives affecting Relator’s rights. 2. Preserve the status quo by prohibiting GLO or its counsel from attempting to enforce or rely upon the void orders pending this Court’s final resolution of the mandamus.

3. Order the Real Party in Interest not conduct any deposition, hearing, conference, or other litigation activity based on orders issued by Judge Liu while disqualified. 4. Grant any further emergency relief necessary to protect the Court’s jurisdiction and prevent further irreparable harm.

II. EMERGENCY RELIEF IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT IRREPARABLE HARM Emergency relief is appropriate where temporary orders are needed to protect the Court’s jurisdiction or prevent harm that cannot be remedied on appeal.

Tex. R. App. P. 52.10(a). A. Enforcement of Void Orders Constitutes Irreparable Harm Under Tex. Const. art. V, §11, a judge who previously represented a party is constitutionally disqualified. Orders issued during disqualification are: • Void, 3 • Unenforceable, and • Subject to mandamus relief. See *Buckholts I.S.D. v. Glaser*, 632 S.W.2d 146, 148–49 (Tex. 1982).

Requiring Relator to comply with void orders—especially a compelled deposition order—would inflict harm that cannot be cured through appellate review, satisfying the standard for temporary relief. B. Relator Has No Functional Trial Court Judge Liu recused himself on November 21, 2025, and as of this filing: • No successor judge has been appointed, • Void orders remain unaddressed, and • The trial court is unable to act.

Relator thus has no avenue to seek relief in the trial court, satisfying the requirement that emergency intervention is necessary to preserve her rights. C. Continued Delay Compounds Professional and Financial Harm Relator has been without comparable employment since December 3, 2024 and continues to experience ongoing blacklisting. Every additional week of litigation paralysis: • Compounds economic loss, • Delays relief under the Texas Whistleblower Act, and • Worsens the prejudice caused by void orders and procedural breakdown.

4 The Texas Supreme Court recognizes that where “delay will permanently prejudice the rights of the parties,” emergency relief may be warranted. *In re McAllen Med. Ctr.*, 275 S.W.3d 458, 466 (Tex. 2008). III. EMERGENCY RELIEF IS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE COURT’S JURISDICTION If the Court does not issue a temporary stay, GLO may attempt to: • Enforce the void deposition order, • Continue litigation activity without judicial authority, • Take actions premised on void rulings, or • Create additional procedural complications that frustrate appellate review.

Issuing temporary relief under TRAP 52.10 prevents the Real Party from relying on void orders in a manner that could moot or undermine the mandamus. IV. REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY RELIEF WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE Under Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 52.10(b), the Court may grant temporary relief without prior notice where immediate intervention is necessary to prevent irreparable injury or to protect the Court’s jurisdiction.

This is such a case. Relator respectfully submits that emergency relief without prior notice is warranted because: 5 1. There is currently no successor judge to whom Relator can apply for vacatur of the void orders. Since Judge Liu’s recusal on November 21, 2025, the trial court has been unable to act, leaving Relator without any avenue for relief at the trial-court level.

2. All operative orders were issued by a constitutionally disqualified judge, rendering them void ab initio. Enforcement of void orders constitutes immediate and irreparable harm that cannot be remedied on appeal. 3.

The compelled deposition order presents imminent harm because GLO intends to enforce a deposition, notwithstanding Judge Liu’s disqualification and the absence of judicial oversight. Requiring Relator to comply with a void deposition order would undermine the integrity of the judicial process and prejudice the mandamus proceeding itself. 4.

The Real Party in Interest continues to benefit from procedural paralysis, while Relator continues to suffer ongoing blacklisting, loss of comparable employment, and increasing prejudice with each week of delay. 5. Temporary relief is necessary to preserve the status quo so that the Court may fully and fairly exercise its jurisdiction over the pending mandamus petition.

Without a stay, the Real Party may take actions—such as attempting to enforce void orders or conduct discovery—that would create procedural complications or moot portions of the mandamus before this Court can rule. 6 Because the harm is ongoing, immediate, and cannot be corrected later, Relator respectfully requests that the Court issue temporary relief without awaiting a response, as permitted by TRAP 52.10(b).

Given the imminent risk of irreparable harm, Relator requests immediate temporary relief under TRAP 52.10(b). Should the Court prefer to request a response, Relator defers to the Court’s discretion. V. PRAYER Relator respectfully requests that the Court grant this Motion for

Emergency Relief under TRAP 52.10 and: 1. Stay all orders issued by Judge Cory R. Liu in the underlying case; 2.

Prohibit enforcement or reliance upon those orders pending mandamus review; 3. Preserve the status quo by preventing GLO from compelling Relator's deposition or engaging in litigation activity based on void orders; and 4. Grant all further relief to which Relator is entitled. Respectfully submitted, /s/ Cedric M. Scott Cedric M. Scott, PhD Relator, Pro Se Email: cedricscott41@gmail.com Date: December 9, 2025 7 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE I certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Relator's Motion for Emergency Relief was served in accordance with Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.5, on December 9, 2025 by electronic service (e-Filing) to the following: Real Party in Interest Counsel Sara Labashosky State Bar No. 24129467 slabashosky@bickerstaff.com Gunnar P. Seaquist State Bar No. 24043358 gseaquist@bickerstaff.com Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP 3711 S. MoPac Expressway Building One, Suite 300 Austin, Texas 78746 (512) 472-8021 Respondent The Honorable Cory R. Liu Judge of the 250th Judicial District Court (Recused in Trial Court Cause No. D-1-GN-25-000006) Travis County, Texas Email: 250.Submission@traviscountytexas.gov /s/ Cedric M. Scott Cedric M. Scott, PhD Relator, Pro Se 8 Automated Certificate of eService This automated certificate of service was created by the eFiling system.

The filer served this document via email generated by the eFiling system on the date and to the persons listed below. The rules governing certificates of service have not changed. Filers must still provide a certificate of service that complies with all applicable rules. Envelope ID: 108866059 Filing Code Description: Motion - Exempt Filing Description: Relator's Motion for Emergency Relief Status as of 12/9/2025 7:26 AM CST Case Contacts Name BarNumber Email TimestampSubmitted Status Honorable Cory R.Liu 250.submission@traviscountytexas.gov 12/9/2025 1:24:20 AM SENT Jeffrey Moore jmoore@bickerstaff.com 12/9/2025 1:24:20 AM SENT Sara Labashosky slabashosky@bickerstaff.com 12/9/2025 1:24:20 AM SENT Gunnar Seaquist gseaquist@bickerstaff.com 12/9/2025 1:24:20 AM SENT