

TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, THIRD DISTRICT, AT AUSTIN

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

Jones · No. 03-23-00209-CV; 03-25-00617-CV; 03-25-00906-CV · Decided May 21, 2026

SUMMARY

The Texas Court of Appeals, Third District, at Austin supplemented and amended its April 29, 2026 memorandum opinion and order concerning three appeals arising from the same Travis County trial-court cause. The court abated and remanded one appeal for findings regarding a supersedeas bond contest, continued a stay in another appeal, temporarily stayed a turnover order in the third appeal pending consideration of an emergency motion involving the bankruptcy automatic stay, and prohibited dissipation or transfer of assets to avoid satisfying the judgment.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Texas Court of Appeals, Third District, at Austin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Chief Justice Byrne; Justice Kelly; Justice Ellis
JURISDICTION	Texas Court of Appeals, Third District, at Austin
DECIDED	May 21, 2026
DOCKET	03-23-00209-CV; 03-25-00617-CV; 03-25-00906-CV
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Interlocutory appellate proceedings concerning a supersedeas bond contest, turnover orders, and an emergency motion invoking the bankruptcy automatic stay.
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
- injunctions
- bankruptcy

PRACTICE AREAS

- appellate procedure
- civil procedure
- bankruptcy
- remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the appeal in Cause No. 03-23-00209-CV should be abated and remanded for the trial court to take evidence and make findings regarding the supersedeas bond contest.
2. Whether the appellate court should maintain or impose temporary stays concerning turnover orders to preserve the parties' rights.
3. Whether the appellants should be prohibited from dissipating or transferring assets to avoid satisfaction of the judgment, subject to ordinary-course-of-business limitations.

HOLDINGS

1. The appeal in Cause No. 03-23-00209-CV is abated and remanded to the trial court to take evidence and make findings regarding the supersedeas bond contest, including events occurring since October 6, 2025.
2. The previously entered 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 on the emergency motion concerning the alleged violation of the bankruptcy automatic stay.
3. The appellants are prohibited from dissipating or transferring assets to avoid satisfaction of the judgment, but the trial court may not interfere with the use, transfer, conveyance, or dissipation of assets in the normal course of business.

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 Appellants in these cases are prohibited from dissipating or transferring assets to avoid satisfaction of the judgment.” (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The appeals arise from a trial-court judgment and related proceedings involving a supersedeas bond contest, turnover orders, and objections to a net-worth declaration and motion for sanctions. The trial court entered an October 6, 2025 order concerning the plaintiffs' objection and sanctions motion. The appellate court required consideration of events occurring after that order and imposed temporary asset-preservation restrictions while the appeals proceeded.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The appeals arose from the same trial-court cause in the 261st and 459th District Courts of Travis County. The court supplemented and amended its April 29, 2026 memorandum opinion and order, abated Cause No. 03-23-00209-CV, and remanded that cause for evidence and findings concerning the supersedeas bond contest. It continued a previously entered stay in Cause No. 03-25-00617-CV and temporarily stayed the turnover order in Cause No. 03-25-00906-CV pending further consideration of an emergency motion concerning the bankruptcy automatic stay.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The trial court must take evidence and make findings regarding the supersedeas bond contest, including events occurring since the October 6, 2025 order concerning the plaintiffs' objection to the net-worth declaration and motion for sanctions. The trial court must direct that its order be filed with the appellate court in a supplemental clerk's record by May 29, 2026.

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, THIRD DISTRICT, AT AUSTIN NO. 03-23-00209-CV Alex E. Jones and Free Speech Systems, LLC, Appellants v. Neil Heslin and Scarlett Lewis, Appellees NO. 03-25-00617-CV NO. 03-25-00906-CV Free Speech Systems, LLC, Appellant v. Neil Heslin, Scarlett Lewis, David Wheeler, Francine Wheeler, Jacqueline Barden, Mark Barden, Nicole Hockley, Ian Hockley, Jennifer Hensel, Donna Soto, Carlee Soto Parisi, Carlos M. Soto, Jillian Soto-Marino, William Aldenberg, William Sherlach, Robert Parker, and Erica Ash, Appellees FROM THE 261ST & 459TH DISTRICT COURT OF TRAVIS COUNTY NO. D-1-GN-18-001835, THE HONORABLE MAYA GUERRA GAMBLE, JUDGE PRESIDING
MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER PER CURIAM The memorandum opinion and order dated April 29, 2026, addressing the above-listed appeals arising from the same trial-court cause is supplemented and amended as follows: 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.

See Tex. R. App. P. 24.4(d). The evidence and findings shall include events occurring since the trial court's 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 this Court in a supplemental clerk's record by May 29, 2026. This Court's August 28, 2025 Order staying the turnover order in Cause No. 03-25-00617-CV remains in effect.

This Court temporarily stays the turnover order in Cause No. 03-25-00906-CV pending further order on the Appellant's Emergency Motion for Immediate Stay of Void Turnover Order Issued in Violation of the Bankruptcy Automatic Stay. See Tex. R. App. P. 24.4(c) ("The appellate court may issue any temporary orders necessary to preserve the parties' rights.").

The Appellants in these cases are prohibited from dissipating or transferring assets to avoid satisfaction of the judgment. This requirement can be enforced by the trial court, though the trial

court cannot make any order that interferes with the appellants' use, transfer, conveyance, or dissipation of assets in the normal course of business. See *id.*; cf R. 24.2(d).

It is ORDERED May 21, 2026. Before Chief Justice Byrne, Justices Kelly and Ellis No. 03-23-00209-CV – Abated and Remanded No. 03-25-00617-CV – Ordered No. 03-25-00906-CV – Ordered Filed: May 21, 2026 2