

# COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST DISTRICT OF TEXAS

## In re Heather J. Taylor and Mad Hat Maven, LLC

No. 01-26-00338-CV · No. 01-26-00338-CV · Decided April 9, 2026

### SUMMARY

The First District Court of Appeals of Texas denied a petition for writ of mandamus and an emergency stay motion filed by non-parties in an underlying defamation action. The petition challenged orders authorizing substituted service of subpoenas and compelling the relators to appear for depositions and produce documents.

### CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas                                                                                                                           |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Justice Gunn; Justice Caughey; Justice Morgan                                                                                                                              |
| JURISDICTION          | Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas                                                                                                                           |
| DECIDED               | April 9, 2026                                                                                                                                                              |
| DOCKET                | 01-26-00338-CV                                                                                                                                                             |
| DISPOSITION           | writ_denied                                                                                                                                                                |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Original proceeding on a petition for writ of mandamus challenging orders authorizing substituted service of subpoenas and compelling depositions and document production. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | Published memorandum opinion                                                                                                                                               |
| PARTIES               | Heather J. Taylor, Mad Hat Maven, LLC                                                                                                                                      |

### TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- civil procedure
- discovery dispute
- service of process

### PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- appellate procedure
- discovery

### QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether the relators were entitled to mandamus relief from the order authorizing substituted service of subpoenas.

2. Whether the relators were entitled to mandamus relief from the enforcement order compelling depositions and document production.
3. Whether the relators were entitled to an emergency stay of the enforcement order and scheduled depositions.

#### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

Heather J. Taylor and Mad Hat Maven, LLC were non-parties in an underlying defamation action pending in the 113th Judicial District Court of Harris County. The trial court authorized substituted service of subpoenas on them and later entered an enforcement order compelling Taylor and Mad Hat Maven's corporate representative to appear for depositions and produce responsive documents. The depositions were scheduled for April 9, 2026.

#### **PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Relators, who were non-parties in an underlying defamation action, challenged a March 3, 2026 order authorizing substituted service of subpoenas and a March 31, 2026 enforcement order compelling them to appear for depositions and produce documents. They also sought an emergency stay of the enforcement order and scheduled depositions. The court denied both the mandamus petition and the related stay motion.

#### **DISPOSITION**

writ\_denied

#### **OPINION**

In Re Heather J. Taylor and Mad Hat Maven, LLC v. the State of Texas

PER CURIAM.

Opinion issued April 9, 2026 In The Court of Appeals For The First District of Texas

NO. 01-26-00338-CV

IN RE HEATHER J. TAYLOR AND MAD HAT MAVEN, LLC, Relators Original Proceeding on Petition for Writ of Mandamus

MEMORANDUM OPINION

At 10:33pm on April 8, 2026, Relators Hether J. Taylor and Mad Hat Maven, LLC—non-parties in the underlying defamation action—filed a petition for writ of mandamus challenging (1) the March 3, 2026 Order Granting Substituted Service signed by the Honorable Rabeea Sultan Collier, Presiding Judge of the 113th Judicial District Court of Harris County, authorizing substituted service of subpoenas on Relators, and (2) the March 31, 2026 Enforcement Order signed by the Honorable Fredericka Phillips, Visting Judge of the 113th Judicial District Court of Harris County, compelling Relators to appear for depositions within ten days (i.e., by April 9, 2026) and produce all documents responsive to the document request at least three days prior to the deposition. 1 In conjunction with the petition, Relators filed a motion requesting an emergency stay of (1) the Enforcement Order, (2) the deposition of Taylor scheduled for April 9, 2026 at 9:00am, and (3) the

deposition of Mad Hat Mave's corporate representative scheduled for April 9, 2026 at 1:30pm. We deny the mandamus petition and the related stay motion.

PER CURIAM

Panel consists of Justices Gunn, Caughey, and Morgan. 1 The underlying case is Jay K. Sears v. Women's Justice Network, USA and J. Doe, cause number 2025-78000, pending in the 113th District Court of Harris County, Texas, the Honorable Rabeea Sultan Collier presiding. The Honorable Fredericka Phillips sitting as visiting judge. 2

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