



CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

1100 E. MONROE STREET
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
78520

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
(956) 544-0830 FAX: (956) 544-0801
1-866-544-0830

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 16, 2010

Contact: Carlos H. Cascos, CPA
County Judge

**13TH COURT OF APPEALS RULES IN FAVOR OF COMMISSIONERS'
COURT**

County Judge Carlos H. Cascos announced that the 13th Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of the Cameron County Commissioners' Court and its Civil Division attorneys in the lawsuit filed against them late last year by County Attorney Armando Villalobos.

Chief Justice Rogelio Valdez authored the Court of Appeals' opinion noting Mr. Villalobos had shown no constitutional, statutory or case law support for his claimed exclusive authority as County Attorney to represent the County in civil matters. The Court was not persuaded by Villalobos' argument that the Commissioners Court's 1996 action transferring the original civil division from the County Attorney's Office was improper. The Court noted that it is apparent that the County Attorney's Office "never had the exclusive right to represent Cameron County in civil matters in the first place."

Since 1996, the Commissioners' Court has provided direct supervision over the Civil Division and developed it into the small, efficient, and specialized law office that exists today. The Court of Appeals held that there was nothing arbitrary or capricious about the Commissioners' choice to fulfill their duties to handle the County's business, including its civil legal business and associated budget matters, in such a way. The Court of Appeals dissolved the temporary injunction sought and obtained by Villalobos that for several weeks limited the Commissioners, the County Judge and Civil Division lawyers from handling the County's civil legal business according to routine developed over the last fourteen years. The Court held that no such injunction should have been issued.

County Judge Carlos Cascos said, "I am relieved that the Court of Appeals made a decision on the merits of this dispute in line with Texas law and the Constitution of our great State. This decision lifts a cloud of uncertainty that has been hovering over the County's business and legal affairs and our taxpayers since the filing of this lawsuit."

Unless County Attorney Villalobos appeals, the Court of Appeals' has ordered that the case be finally resolved in accordance with its decision. That should not take very long.

###