

State bar complaint against Attorney General Ken Paxton to proceed after key deadline passes

BY **TIMIA COBB** | THE TEXAS TRIBUNE



Courtesy Photo / Ken Paxton, Texas AG

(TEXAS TRIBUNE) - A Texas State Bar complaint is moving forward, accusing Attorney General Ken Paxton of professional misconduct when he sued to overturn 2020 presidential election results in four battleground states.

Sunday was the deadline for the State Bar of Texas to dismiss its complaint, according to Jim Harrington, a civil rights attorney and one of the 16 lawyers who have brought the complaint along with the nonprofit group Lawyers Defending American Democracy.

The group filed the complaint last year with the bar — which is responsible for the licensing of attorneys in Texas — after Paxton’s lawsuit challenging election results in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan and Georgia was rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court in December 2020. Election officials have said claims by former President Donald Trump about election fraud are baseless.

The high court ruled the state of Texas had not proven why it had standing in the case.

“Texas has not demonstrated a judicially cognizable interest in the manner in which another State conducts its elections,” the court wrote in 2020.

News of the case proceeding was dismissed by the attorney general.

Paxton claimed the timing was politically motivated, coming as it did on the first week of his campaign against Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush. The two face a May 24 runoff for the Republican nomination in the attorney general’s race after neither candidate had a majority of votes in the March 1 primary.

“But I’m not worried,” Paxton said in a statement. “I take their partisan attacks as a mark I’m doing the right thing.”

The state bar complaint called out Paxton for his lack of evidence of voting fraud in the four states whose election results he was challenging. Paxton must now decide in 20 days either to participate in a trial by jury in Travis County or an internal investigatory and evidentiary hearing by the state bar, according to Harrington.

“They could take away his license,” Harrington said. “They could suspend him, they could reprimand him, whatever. It’s up to them, what they want to do and how bad they think the conduct was.”

In a separate move, the State Bar of Texas has filed a disciplinary action against Sidney Powell of Dallas, an attorney for former President Donald Trump. The March 1 filing in Dallas County accuses Powell of misconduct for filing a lawsuit speculating that fraud was committed in the 2020 presidential election.

Powell did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.

Johnny Grier, the NFL's first Black referee, dies at 74

by **Jack Baer** | YAHOO!SPORTS



Johnny Grier
(photo: Bob Falcetti/Getty Images)

(Y!SPORTS) - Johnny Grier, the first Black person to lead an NFL officiating crew, died on Tuesday. He was 74.

NFL executive vice president of football operations Troy Vincent confirmed the news.

A North Carolina native and University of D.C. graduate, Grier got his start as a high school referee in 1965 and in college football in 1972, according to Football Zebras. He joined the NFL as a field judge in 1981 and worked Super Bowl XXII before getting promoted to referee in 1988, the first African-American man to hold the position in the NFL.

Over the course of his career as an official, Grier worked 15 playoff games and led the crew in the 1993 AFC Championship game. In 1989, he oversaw the debut of Art Shell, the modern NFL's first Black head coach.

Grier's officiating career came to an end in 2004, when a leg injury forced him off the field. He would go on to work as officiating supervisor for the NFL and supervisor of officials for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Texas pharmacy owner convicted of illegally distributing over 1M oxycodone, hydrocodone pills

by: **David Barer** | KXAN, AUSTIN

AUSTIN (KXAN) — A co-owner of several Texas pharmacies, including two in the Austin area, was convicted Monday by a federal jury of illegally distributing more than 1.5 million doses of controlled substances, including over 1.1 million oxycodone and hydrocodone pills, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Clint Carr, 32, of Cypress, Texas, was indicted in June 2018. Carr and another defendant, Dustin Curry, co-owned CC Pharmacy locations in Houston, Austin and Round Rock. Federal prosecutors say Carr and a co-conspirator illegally sold the powerful prescription painkillers in bulk for cash “based on mostly forged or stolen prescriptions brought in by drug couriers posing as staff of long-term care facilities,” according to the DOJ.

“CC Pharmacy brought in over \$5.5 million from the unlawful sale of these controlled substances,” DOJ said in a statement. “Evidence at trial showed that Carr used these drug proceeds to finance a lavish lifestyle, including the down payment on a \$100,000 Ford pickup truck.”

The jury found Carr guilty on all eight counts. He was convicted on four counts of unlawfully distributing controlled substances, two counts of engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from unlawful activity, one count of conspiracy to unlawfully distribute controlled substances and a count of conspiracy to launder money, according to the DOJ.

Carr has been released from custody on a \$250,000 bond, pending sentencing that is set for May 27, according to court records. Carr faces up to 140 years in federal prison.

Michael Wynne, an attorney representing Carr, told KXAN on Wednesday he had “no substantive comment to provide at this time.”

Oxycodone and hydrocodone are generic names for addictive semi-synthetic opioids often prescribed to treat pain. They are two of the most commonly prescribed opioids involved in overdose deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There were more than 191 million opioid prescriptions dispensed in the U.S. in 2017.

Oligarch renounces Russian citizenship, saying ‘everything Putin touches dies’

by **Shira Rubin** | THE WASHINGTON POST

TEL AVIV — Russian-Israeli oligarch Leonid Nevzlin announced Tuesday that he plans to give up his Russian passport in protest of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

“Everything that Putin touches dies,” Nevzlin wrote in a Facebook post. “I am against the war. I am against the occupation. I am against the genocide of the Ukrainian people.”

Nevzlin was among the first prominent Russian oligarchs to establish self-imposed exile in Israel, fleeing what he has described as a campaign of politically motivated persecution by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In 2003, Nevzlin fled Russia for Israel amid a Kremlin-backed investigation into his Yukos oil company. Nevzlin co-owned Yukos with Mikhail B. Khodorkovsky, who was imprisoned by a Moscow court on charges of fraud, and, later, of embezzlement and money laundering.

Israel has refused requests for Nevzlin’s extradition to face charges in Russia of murder, attempted murder and financial crimes.

Nevzlin has denied all charges and has said they are attempts by Putin to silence him and other critics.

“I was one of the first to be hit by Putin. He threw my friends in jails, and killed some of them,” wrote Nevzlin. “I have spent almost twenty years outside Russia, but that is exactly what has allowed me to see its process of rotting and decomposing.”

In the years following Russia’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014, a new wave of wealthy Russian citizens, including former Chelsea Premier League soccer team owner and longtime Putin supporter Roman Abramovich, took up Israeli citizenship in part to avoid the resulting U.S. sanctions. Many continue to have business and financial ties in Russia and have been cautious about publicly criticizing the war.

Sanctioned billionaire banker Mikhail Fridman has described the war as a “tragedy” and said that war “can never be the answer.” But in a news conference with journalists in London, he said he would not directly criticize Putin’s invasion of Ukraine so as to avoid reprisals against his employees.

Nevzlin wrote Tuesday that his compatriots cheered the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s.

“Thank goodness some of them didn’t make it to this day,” he wrote. “The day when the Motherland, whose fresh passports they kissed, became a fascist state.”

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC) DISTRICT is requesting sealed proposals from interested or qualified firms for the purposes of selecting a respondent to provide Telehealth and Electronic Medical Records (EMR) System for the following solicitation.

- **Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 948-22-51-00-S-SM**
- All sealed proposals must be submitted to the Procure to Pay (P2P) Department by no later than on Thursday, March 31, 2022, 11:00 a.m. Central Standard Time (CST).
- See solicitation for details.
- Solicitation documents are available on the ACC P2P’s website at:
- <http://www.austinctx.edu/offices/purchasing/advertised-solicitations>** or at **<https://go.scoutrfp.com/rfps/public/330236>**.
- If you are not able to view this solicitation, please set up a Workday account with ACC: **<https://www.austinctx.edu/offices/business-services/procure-topay/procurement/supplier-registration>**.
- Only electronically transmitted responses will be accepted by the date and time indicated above, unless otherwise stated in the solicitation documents.
- ACC will host a pre-proposal conference on March 22, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. CST via a Google Virtual Meeting.
- See solicitation documents for details.



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