Court Advisory

Fourth Court of Appeals Cadena-Reeves Justice Center 300 Dolorosa, Suite 3200 San Antonio, Texas 78205-3037



Contact: Keith Hottle, Clerk of the Court Phone: (210) 335-2510 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 20, 2013

Fourth Court of Appeals to Hear Oral Argument

The Fourth Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in one appeal on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m., before the following panel of justices: Justice Karen Angelini, Justice Marialyn Barnard, and Justice Patricia O. Alvarez.

The following case will be presented:

Nelson Wolff, County Judge of Bexar County, Texas, Bexar County Commissioners Paul Elizondo, Tommy Adkisson, Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez, and Kevin Wolff, and Bexar County, Texas v. Deputy Constables Association of Bexar County – This is an accelerated appeal arising out of a trial court's order denying the plea to the jurisdiction filed by Nelson Wolff, County Judge of Bexar County, Texas, Bexar County Commissioners Paul Elizondo, Tommy Adkisson, Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez, and Kevin Wolff, and Bexar County, Texas. In this appeal, the appellants contend the trial court erred in denying their plea to the jurisdiction because the Deputy Constables Association of Bexar County lacks standing to bring suit because the deputy constables are not "police officers" under Chapter 174 of the Texas Local Government Code.

The Fourth Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in one appeal on Friday, June 28, 2013, beginning at 1:30 p.m., before the following panel of justices: Justice Sandee Bryan Marion, Justice Marialyn Barnard, and Justice Luz Elena D. Chapa.

The following case will be presented:

Oscar Lopez, in his Official Capacity as Sheriff of Jim Wells County, Unknown Named Agents of Jim Wells County Sheriff's Department, in their Official Capacities,, Jim Wells County Sheriff's Department, and Jim Wells County v. Monica Escobar - Monica Escobar was injured in an accident when the driver of a pickup truck pulled out into traffic in front of her on a highway. Before the collision, the pickup truck was being followed by a Jim Wells County Sheriff's deputy, who had activated the emergency lights on his patrol car. The pickup truck

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driver turned into a highway crossover and appeared to be stopping. After the deputy pulled into the crossover behind the pickup truck and the officers exited the patrol car, the pickup truck pulled out into traffic in front of Escobar's car, causing the accident.

Escobar sued Jim Wells County, alleging the deputy's negligence proximately caused her injuries. She alleged the County's immunity is waived by the Texas Tort Claims Act because her claim arose from the operation or use of a motor vehicle. The County filed a plea to the jurisdiction, challenging the jurisdictional facts. The trial court denied the plea and the County appealed.

The issue on appeal is whether, viewing the evidence submitted to the trial court in the light most favorable to Escobar, the accident arose from the deputy's use or operation of a motor vehicle, as that phrase is used in the Texas Tort Claims Act.

The oral arguments will be held in the Fourth Court's Courtroom, Cadena-Reeves Justice Center, Third Floor, 300 Dolorosa, San Antonio, Texas.