



Office of the Attorney General

State of Texas

November 3, 1992

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Honorable Michael J. Guarino
Criminal District Attorney
Galveston County
405 County Courthouse
Galveston, Texas 77550

Letter Opinion No. 92-72

Re: Whether the county is required to reimburse its elected judges for payment of annual dues assessed by the State Bar (ID# 17347)

Dear Mr. Guarino:

You have requested our opinion regarding a dispute between the Galveston County Commissioners Court and a Galveston County probate judge as to whether the county is required to reimburse its elected judges for payment of annual dues assessed by the State Bar of Texas.

As you indicate, subsection (h) of section 25.0862, Government Code, provides for the payment of the salaries of the statutory county court judges of Galveston County, including the probate judge. The minimum salary for such judges is detailed in Government Code section 25.0005. The commissioners court is also directed to furnish its judges with "the physical facilities necessary to operate" the particular statutory county court. Gov't. Code § 25.0030. In addition, Local Government Code section 152.011 authorizes a commissioners court to "set the amount of the compensation, office and travel expenses, and all other allowances" for county officials. Although this latter provision may *permit* the commissioners court to compensate a statutory county judge for payment of bar dues, it does not *require* that body to do so. Neither does any other statute impose such a requirement.

Accordingly, we are obliged to conclude that the Galveston County Commissioners Court is not compelled to reimburse the probate judge of Galveston County for payment of annual dues assessed to him by the State Bar of Texas.

S U M M A R Y

The Galveston County Commissioners Court is not required to reimburse its elected judges for payment of annual dues assessed by the State Bar of Texas.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Gilpin".

Rick Gilpin
Deputy Chief
Opinion Committee