

POLITICS // HOUSTON POLITICS

Lawyer says his hobby is taking on bad judges

By Kiah Collier

Updated Oct 25, 2013 11:11 p.m.



Recent photo of Greg Enos, board certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Enos handles divorce and child custody cases in Harris County and Galveston County, Texas.

courtesy of Greg Enos

International Journal on the Reform of Family Courts

The Mongoose



Together, family law attorneys can reform our family courts!
Published by attorney Greg Enos

The photograph at the top of [Greg Enos'](#) monthly email newsletter is always the same: A pack of mongooses confronting a reared-up cobra.

The Webster family lawyer says the image is a symbol of a change he aims to kindle in the Houston-area legal community - at least in family courts.

"I do not expect to win every case," Enos writes at the end of most newsletters. "I just want an efficient system in which my client gets a fair hearing by a judge who works hard, knows the law and does not play favorites."

The newsletter Enos started nearly three years ago, titled the International Journal on the Reform of Family Courts or The Mongoose for short, has been one tool in his quest. Criminal complaints filed against judges have been another.

The 53-year-old Austin native's criminal complaint last year against Galveston County Judge Christopher Dupuy preceded an investigation by the state attorney general and multiple indictments related to judicial misconduct that led to the judge's suspension and eventual resignation.

Judge accused of creating false court records

Enos' next target is 311th state District Court Judge Denise Pratt, a Republican family court judge first elected in 2010, whom he has accused of falsifying court records in an effort to cover up tardy rulings.

Last week, Enos brought his concerns to Harris County District Clerk Chris Daniel, the official keeper of all court records, who launched an internal investigation that led to the resignation this week of Pratt's lead clerk. Also this week, as promised on The Mongoose, Enos filed a meticulously researched criminal complaint against Pratt with the Harris County District Attorney's Office and the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Allegations prove true

Daniel said he had never heard of Enos before last week, but that the accusations he made against Pratt in two cases checked out.

It is rare for lawyers to launch public attacks against all-powerful judges, who - particularly in family court - have a big say in the fates of their clients.

"I have the rather odd hobby of trying to make our family court system a little fairer, and most of the judges actually like what I do," Enos said.

Like the mongoose, physically immune to snake venom, Enos believes he and other lawyers ultimately have little to lose - and a better legal system to gain - in standing up to rogue judges. His newsletter has helped inspire lawyers to speak out, he said.

Longtime Clear Lake family attorney Marcia Zimmerman - who took legal measures to force Pratt to make a ruling in one of the cases outlined in Enos' complaint - described Enos' gusto as a rarity, but said that the former personal injury attorney is "credible," careful about what he puts in writing and "bringing to light some very important issues."

"Our first obligation is to our client, and we don't want to risk a judge's retaliation," Zimmerman said. "But I think that some lawyers now have the attitude with Judge Pratt that, what else could she do to us?"

Zimmerman's client, corporate pilot Kevin Bates, said Pratt's tardiness and absenteeism from nearly half-a-dozen scheduled hearings meant that he did not see his three daughters for almost a year.

"She has taken things away from me that I will never be able to get back," Bates said.

Pratt's campaign

Pratt, who has filed to run for re-election next year, and her campaign consultant Allen Blakemore did not respond to requests for comment on Friday. Blakemore issued a statement late Thursday suggesting Enos' complaint is the result of hurt feelings; Enos contended his motivations are not personal as he has won every case he has had in Pratt's court.

If the fate of Enos' complaint against Dupuy is any indication, Pratt could be in trouble. Originally filed with the Galveston County District Attorney's Office, Enos' complaint was forwarded to the Texas attorney general, who eventually brought eight indictments against Dupuy, including two charges that Enos had suggested.

"I'll let you do the math," said David Glickler, the state prosecutor assigned to the Dupuy case, who noted the ratio when asked about Enos' credibility.