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Attorney Convicted of Felony Fraud

An Ellis County jury convicted Midlothian attorney Todd R. Phillippi of Fraudulent Use of Identifying Information, a state jail felony. Phillippi was convicted on Wednesday, January 12, 2011. On Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, the same jury sentenced him to 730 days in the state jail and a fine of \$10,000. Following the jury's recommendation, Judge Joe Clayton, sitting by assignment in the 40<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, placed Phillippi on community supervision (probation) for two years.



*Todd R. Phillippi*

The evidence at trial showed that Phillippi forged the signature of an official notary and, without her knowledge, used the notary's stamp on an affidavit. The affidavit was presented to Judge Greg Wilhelm, Ellis County Court at Law 1, to obtain a temporary restraining order.

Evidence presented during the punishment phase showed that Phillippi also created a false document and presented that document to the 10<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals in Waco and to the Ellis County District Clerk. That document related to the appeal of a criminal case in which Phillippi was the defense attorney.

Phillippi was previously convicted of D.W.I. in Ellis County on October 27, 2010.

County and District Attorney Patrick M. Wilson prosecuted the case. "This type of fraud undermines the integrity of the entire judicial system, and it cannot be tolerated," said Wilson.