



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prepared by:

Ellis County & District Attorney's Office  
109 S. Jackson Street  
Waxahachie, TX 75165

Contact: Ann Montgomery, 972-825-5035 (ann.montgomery@co.ellis.tx.us)

### **JURY GIVES MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT FOR D.W.I.**

On Tuesday, May 2, 2012, an Ellis County jury convicted Richard Garfield Beavers, 58 years old, from Grand Prairie, Texas, of Driving While Intoxicated. The same jury assessed a maximum punishment of 365 days in jail and a fine of \$4,000. This was Beavers' second conviction for D.W.I.

At 12:30 a.m. on December 23, 2010, Ellis County Sheriff's deputies observed Beavers commit several traffic violations, including running two stop signs, on the north bound service road of I-35E, near Red Oak. Deputies stopped the vehicle and smelled alcohol. After performing standardized field sobriety tests on Beavers, deputies requested Beavers to provide a specimen of his breath of blood. Beavers refused. He told deputies, however, that on an intoxication scale of 1-10 he was a five.

The video of the traffic stop was played for the jury, which only took ten minutes to find Beavers guilty. Beavers testified during the punishment phase of the trial. He admitted that at the time of the traffic stop in Ellis County he was on community supervision for a D.W.I. conviction out of Dallas County. He admitted that he had been drinking before the traffic stop, but he didn't believe he was intoxicated because he could still drive his vehicle. Beavers also admitted that he routinely violated a condition of his Dallas County community supervision by drinking alcohol with professional associates every Wednesday.

In her closing argument, Assistant County & District Attorney Nan Udell asked the jury to assess a punishment of 300 days in jail. The jury again took only ten minutes to assess the maximum punishment of 365 days in jail and a fine of \$4,000.

Ellis County & District Attorney Patrick Wilson issued the following statement: “The jury sent a strong message to everyone who believes they can beat a D.W.I. charge by refusing to provide a breath or blood specimen. That is great news for the safety of the citizens of Ellis County. We thank the jury for that. We have made the investigation and prosecution of D.W.I. a priority for our office. Those efforts appear to be paying off.”

