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Application for Pretrial Writ of Habeas Corpus

Presented By
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NO. D1DC14-100139

EX PARTE

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IN THE DISTRICT

§

§

OF TRAVIS COUNTY

§

JAMES RICHARD "RICK" PERRY

§

390TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

APPLICATION FOR PRETRIAL WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

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TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

Comes now, APPLICANT, JAMES RICHARD "RICK" PERRY, by and through his undersigned

counsel

of record, David L. Botsford,¹ and pursuant to Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Article 17.02, *seq.*, presents this Application For Pretrial Writ of Habeas Corpus, and as grounds therefor, and to

respectfully show this Honorable Court the following:

I.

NATURE OF RELIEF SOUGHT

This is a pretrial application for writ of habeas corpus seeking to set aside the conviction and sentence of Applicant, Governor James Richard "Rick" Perry, on multiple constitutional grounds.

Some of these grounds relate to defects apparent on the face of the indictment, and others relate to defects in the proceedings leading to the conviction and sentence.

parte Weise, 55 S.W.3d 617, 620 (Tex. Crim. App. 2001) (defendant is entitled to habeas relief when he alleges “that the statute under which he or she is prosecuted fails on its face; consequently, there is no valid statute and the charging instrument is void”).

In addition, *both* Section 36.03(a)(1) and Section 39.02(a) are void as applied to this case, and that is true regardless of whether they might pass constitutional muster in other circumstances. The statements and actions alleged in the indictment, if true, are in direct violation of Governor Perry's official capacity. Forcing Texas' head of state to stand trial on charges based on provisions that are clearly unconstitutional as applied to any Governor is a severe and deleterious impact on the efficient operation of state government, now and in the future. It is not fair to require him to stand trial on charges based on statutes that are unconstitutional in the first place. For reasons of constitutional magnitude, including the separation of powers doctrine and the democratic system of government, Governor Perry should have the same right to relief through habeas corpus in this case if the provisions are merely void as applied to him as they were facially unconstitutional.

Even if the statutes under which the Governor is indicted were not void as applied to him on their face or as applied, the facts alleged by the State still fail on their face to show that the Governor committed the crimes charged.

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