

SPRING TERM, 2013

STUDENT SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

*WILLIAMS v. SGA*

Issued April 10, 2013

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By 7-0 Decision

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ON RESPONDANT'S RENEWED MOTION FOR DISMISSAL

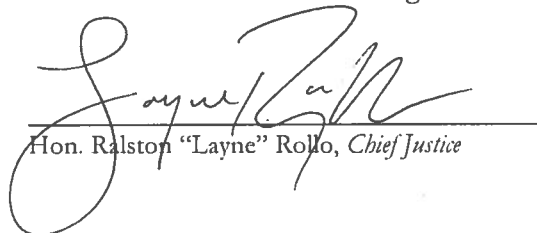
On April 1, 2013, this Court stayed proceedings in *Williams v. SGA* (2013-02), temporarily denying the initial motions of all parties until a preliminary hearing could be conducted to address issues of standing and jurisdiction. A preliminary hearing was held on April 5, 2013.

The Supreme Court of the United States has held that general taxpayer standing does not exist in the American judicial system. *See Frothingham v. Mellon*, 262 U.S. 447 (1923). This means that a citizen of the United States cannot bring a lawsuit challenging government spending simply because he pays taxes. In order to have standing to bring suit arising from a budget allocation, a citizen must suffer some actual, redressable injury as a result of that spending. It is true that this Court is not strictly required to follow precedent set by the Supreme Court of the United States, as we exist outside the normal judicial system. However, we unanimously agree that general principles of American jurisprudence should be applied to cases brought in the judicial system of the Student Government Association, including the requirement that a party have standing.

We decline to recognize the existence of taxpayer standing at Texas Tech University and refuse to hold that an individual student or group of students may challenge SGA spending simply because they pay student service fees. For a student or organization to bring a suit arising from an SGA budget allocation, they must suffer some actual and redressable injury as a result of an unconstitutional allocation of funds by the SGA Student Senate.

Because Complainant does not have general taxpayer standing, and because no actual injury to Complainant was alleged in his brief or during the preliminary hearing, we unanimously hold that Complainant lacks standing to bring this case. Since no standing is found to exist, there is no need for us to address the issue of jurisdiction or to examine any questions of fact. Accordingly, Respondent's renewed Motion for Dismissal is granted.

DISMISSED for lack of standing.



Hon. Ralston "Layne" Rollo, *Chief Justice*