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Harris County criminal court judge indicted

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Don Jackson, a Republican appointed to Criminal Court No. 3 in 1992 after longtime Judge Jimmie Duncan retired, was a Harris County assistant county attorney for 11 years before being named to the bench.

A Harris County Criminal Court-at-Law judge was indicted this morning for misdemeanor official oppression, officials said.

Few details were immediately available regarding the charge against Don Jackson, a 17-year judge, said Joe Stinebaker, spokesman for Harris County Judge Ed Emmett.

Stinebaker said County Judge Jean Hughes, the administrative judge over the county criminal courts, will appoint a special judge to take over Jackson's docket.

He said the charge, a misdemeanor, will be handled by the felony courts because of Jackson's

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position. The maximum punishment is a year in jail and a \$4,000 fine.

According to court documents, bond will be \$1,000 and Jackson will be given the opportunity to turn himself in.

Jackson's term ends in 2010.

There are 15 Harris County Criminal Judges, who are elected to four year terms, which pay \$132,500 a year. They preside over misdemeanor criminal cases and appeals of misdemeanor cases from municipal and justice of the peace courts.

Jackson, a Republican appointed to Criminal Court No. 3 in 1992 after longtime Judge Jimmie Duncan retired, was a Harris County assistant county attorney for 11 years before being named by Commissioners Court to the bench. Since then, Jackson has won re-election four times.

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