

QPWB ATTORNEY TO SEEK DAMAGES UNDER THE TEXAS DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT IN EXCESS OF \$1 MILLION ON BEHALF OF VICTIMS OF ILLEGAL PRACTICES

CONSUMER RIGHTS

Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A., (QPWB) represents seven Hispanic families in Fort Worth, Texas who are victims of a fraudulent scheme perpetrated by a man named Jose Rios. Rios leased the St. Joseph's Hall facility to families for quinceañeras or wedding receptions. Rios engaged in a pattern of double or triple-booking the dates of the events, and just before the dates of the events he contacted the parties and informed them the events had to be cancelled for bogus reasons. Some examples of the false reasons he gave include claiming the fire marshal shut down an event because of compliance issues, claiming a local district judge ordered an event to be shut down over the county's concerns of underage drinking, and claiming an event had to be shut down because he allegedly contracted COVID-19. To support his fraudulent schemes, Rios produced documents which he clearly altered to make his claims appear legitimate.

The families paid between \$6,000 and \$26,000 to lease the facility. When the families asked for their money back, Rios refused. To date, he has withheld over \$100,000 of money given to him by these families for the lease of the facility.

After taking the case, QPWB attorney **Steven A. Wood** worked with the local district attorney's office to assist them in bringing criminal charges against Rios. Rios was subsequently indicted and arrested on three counts of tampering with a government document with the intent to commit fraud. The district attorney is currently working to bring charges against Rios for theft. Mr. Wood is also preparing to file suit against Rios and the owner of the property where St. Joseph's Hall is located. The lawsuit will seek damages and attorney's fees under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act in excess of one million dollars.



Steven A. Wood
Associate | Dallas Office

1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 4545
Dallas, Texas 75201

Phone: (214) 754 - 8755

Email: steven.wood@qpwbllaw.com

Steven A. Wood is an associate in the Dallas office focusing his practice on commercial and civil litigation, and insurance defense with an emphasis on automobile and trucking accidents, premises liability and other personal injury cases. Wood's representation of insurance companies has included conducting insurance fraud investigations and providing opinions on coverage. He has extensive experience in municipal law and governmental liability defense, having served as a city attorney for several cities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for eleven years. He has served as City Attorney for the Town of Annetta and the City of Alvarado and as Assistant City Attorney for the Town of Flower Mound, the City of Richland Hills, the City of Southlake, and has provided legal advice to other Texas municipalities as needed. Wood has worked as an owner and manager of a fraud investigation practice conducting fraud investigations on behalf of insurance companies investigating automobile accidents, theft, arson, property loss, homeowners, healthcare and third-party liability claims. He received his law degree in San Antonio, Texas from St. Mary's University School of Law in 2001.

ABOUT QPWB

QPWB is the largest minority and women owned law firm in the nation. Our lawyers provide representation in litigation, business, real estate and governmental law.



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