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April 29, 2003

OPINION COUNCIL

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Attorney General of Texas  
P. O. Box 12548  
Austin, TX 78711-2548

FILE # ML-43087-03

I.D. # 43087

**RQ-0050-GA**

RE: Opinion No. GA-0037  
(Regarding County Commissioners  
courts authority over hiring and  
budgetary matters regarding an  
elected county officer (RQ-0603-JC))

Dear General Abbott:

I am in possession of the above-referenced opinion concerning the County commissioners court's authority over hiring and budgetary matters with reference to an elected county officer. It would be most helpful to me if you could clarify your opinion as regards the actual "freezing of positions."

Therefore, does Opinion #GA-0037 (1) eliminate the use of hiring freezes as a tool to control expenditures during budget shortfalls? and (2) does your response apply equally to elected officials and those which are controlled strictly by the commissioners court?

Your clarification regarding these questions I have asked would be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

JOHN W. SMITH

JWS/jbw