

6 Okla. Disbarments Blocked

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From News Dispatches

OKLAHOMA CITY, March 12—U.S. Attorney William R. Burkett won an indefinite stay today from his disbarment for alleged misconduct in Democratic Gov. David Hall's income tax suit against the federal government.

A stay order was issued by the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver less than 18 hours after U.S. District Court Judge Stephen S. Chandler here disbarred Burkett and five other government attorneys from practice in the western district of Oklahoma.

The stay allowed Burkett and his assistants to proceed with a hearing involving criminal conspiracy charges against state Treasurer Leo Winters. The hearing had been scheduled for this morning but was delayed because Chandler's order barred Burkett and the others from practicing in federal court here.

The temporary stay was issued by appellate judges Delmas Hill, Robert McWilliams and William E. Doyle.

The six men had been ordered by Chandler on Monday to show cause why they should not be cited for civil and criminal contempt for their al-



JUDGE S. S. CHANDLER



GOV. DAVID HALL

... order stayed in case involving governor's suit.

leged actions in lawsuits and corruptly obstructed and brought against the federal government by Gov. Hall.

Named by Chandler were Burkett, Assistance U.S. Attorneys Jeff Laird, James M. Peters, Floy E. Dawson and O. B. Johnston III, and Internal Revenue Service regional counsel G. Phil Harney.

Chandler's order alleged that Burkett, a former Republican state chairman, and the other five had "wilfully

impeded justice" by conspiring to conceal the whereabouts of Dorothy Pike, Hall's former confidential secretary.

Mrs. Pike is a key witness in a lawsuit filed by the governor in which he alleged the IRS had been harassing him since 1968 with an income tax investigation.

Hall filed suit Jan. 8 seeking a court order to interview Mrs. Pike and for her to produce tax records he said she

had kept as his secretary and given to the IRS.

On Jan. 18, Judge Chandler issued a subpoena for her to appear. Both Burkett and U.S. Marshall Gene Carrier said they didn't know where to find her, although Burkett said she was being afforded "protective facilities" by the IRS at her request and feared for her life.

On Jan. 22, Chandler signed two more subpoenas for Mrs. Pike with a remark that all attorneys in the case have "a legal and ethical duty" to inform the marshal if they know her whereabouts.

After several days of searching, Mrs. Pike was located Jan. 29 in Arlington, Va. She is still in Virginia."

On Jan. 30, Burkett asked and obtained a writ of prohibition from the Tenth Circuit Court halting hearings in Chandler's court pending a show-cause hearing.

In Monday's ruling, Chandler said Burkett and the other five attorneys concealed her address "after the court had admonished them to ascertain and disclose her address and had ordered a subpoena issued and served upon her, which constitutes obstructing and impeding justice in said action."

Chandler's order also said Burkett knew he could obtain Mrs. Pike's address but had testified under oath that he could not," which constituted perjury."