

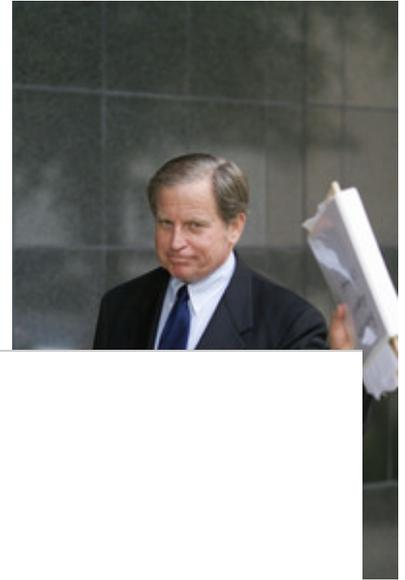
October 27, 2010, 5:40 PM ET

Allen Stanford Gets New Lawyers: The Next Chapter

The carousel of lawyers for jailed ex-billionaire R. Allen Stanford has stopped again, and more attorneys have gotten off.

U.S. District Judge David Hittner in Houston gave Stanford, accused of orchestrating a \$7 billion fraud through the Stanford International Bank, his fifth set of lawyers, only three months prior to the scheduled Jan. 24 start date for Stanford's criminal trial.

The reasons for the latest switch are a bit muddy, based on press reports out of the Texas court hearing today. What's clear is that Stanford's old team led by the colorful Bob Bennett (pictured) is out. According to [this AP report](#), Stanford accused Bennett of ethical violations, but just what they are isn't totally clear:



The nature of the accusations were filed under seal and attorneys in the case cannot comment because of a gag order issued by Hittner. Stanford didn't speak during the hearing. Bennett had previously been accused of committing insurance fraud related to his billing of legal fees in the case, accusations Bennett denied.

Although legal turmoil is certainly not new to Stanford, Thursday's development seemed to mark a low point for him in at least one way. The judge, who rejected lawyers proposed by Stanford, said he was appointing government-funded lawyers Ali Fazel and Robert Scardino to represent Stanford because the formerly high-living billionaire cannot afford to defend himself.

"Mr. Stanford has filed an affidavit of indigency, so we now have to appoint counsel at government expense," Hittner said, according to a Bloomberg story [here](#).

As loyal LB readers know all too well, Stanford has had a [litany](#) of go-rounds with lawyers he's hired and fired. A different judge recently found Stanford and his co-defendants could not draw on an insurance policy for their defense, as detailed in [this LB post](#). An earlier post on Hittner's gag order for lawyers and others in the case is [here](#).

Now that quotable Bennett is off the case, we eagerly await what he might have to say.

Photo: Bloomberg

Copyright 2008 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our [Subscriber Agreement](#) and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit [www.djreprints.com](#)