



**GRAVES DOUGHERTY HEARON & MOODY**

A Professional Corporation

**William Christian**  
Board Certified, Civil Appellate Law  
Texas Board of Legal Specialization

512.480.5704  
512.480.5804 (fax)  
wchristian@gdhm.com

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 98  
Austin, TX 7876-99987

CARDS AGAINST HUMANITY  
1917 N Elston Ave  
Chicago, IL 60642-1219

We, the law firm of Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, PC, have been engaged as legal counsel to represent Cards Against Humanity, in order to defend against any and all attempts of the United States government to use its powers of eminent domain to build a border wall on this land.

Eminent domain generally refers to the power of the government to take private property without the owner's consent. The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution places two limitations on this power: a taking must be for a "public use," and the government must provide the landowner with "just compensation" for the property taken.

Typically, an eminent domain case will start with a request by the government to conduct a survey of the property owner's land to identify the location of the proposed wall. The government will then make the landowner an offer to purchase the property necessary for the wall's construction. If the property owner does not agree to allow access to the property for the survey or to sell the land voluntarily, then the government may file a lawsuit in Court to condemn the land. The property owner is entitled to notice that describes the property the government intends to take, the legal basis for the taking, and the government's intended use for the property. The property owner may then file an answer, objecting to the government's right to take the property. The Court resolves these objections and determines whether the government may take the property. If the taking is allowed, compensation will be determined in a trial, either before a jury or a three-person commission appointed by the Court. Before the government may take actual possession of the property, it must deposit with the Court the full amount of the compensation determined at the trial. A property owner may then appeal the taking and the amount of compensation to a higher court, all the way up to the United States Supreme Court.

The whole legal process can take quite a long time — who knows, maybe longer than the current President will be in office? For however long it takes, we are ready for a protracted resistance to any attempts by the government to build a wall on this land. We will fight in court at every stage, using every available legal tool to make sure that the government follows all required procedures, respects the constitutional rights that safeguard private property and due process of law, and pays the just compensation required by the Fifth Amendment.

Yours truly,

GRAVES, DOUGHERTY, HEARON & MOODY  
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By: 

William Christian