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Court strikes down challenge to school impact fees

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A state appeals court has struck down another challenge to school impact fees, a decision that could end legal battles already stretching more than three years.

School board attorney Keith Martin said this morning that the Second District Court of Appeals has sided with Lee County government and the school system, ruling that the collection of one-time fees on new homes is constitutional and the methodology to set school fees is appropriate.

"I'm hoping this ends it," Martin said.

The original lawsuit was filed by the Lee Building Industry Association, First Home Builders and homeowner Tina Brown in December 2001, just two days after the Lee County Commission approved the fees. School impact fees currently are set at \$2,232 for every new single-family home, \$691 for a multi-family home and \$425 for a mobile home built within Lee County.

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