

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION



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URGENT MEDIA NOTICE RE: FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN SCOTT THOMAS AND
VICE CHAIRMAN TREVOR POTTER
OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

October 29, 1993

In view of the public interest in the effects of the recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in FEC v. National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund, et. al., we think it is important to state for the record what steps the Commission has taken, and will be taking, as a result of the October 22, 1993 Court of Appeals' decision.

First, the Commission met on Tuesday, October 26, two business days after the Court holding was announced, to take the initial actions necessary to conform to the Court's decision. This included a unanimous vote to proceed as a six-member Commission pending any further judicial decisions or actions. The Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House have been notified of this action. A copy of the resolutions already adopted by the Commission in this regard is attached to this statement.

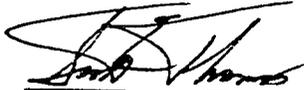
Second, the Commission at that meeting received a preliminary briefing from the General Counsel on options available to the Commission, including seeking a rehearing en banc or seeking certiorari from the Supreme Court. The General Counsel made no recommendations to the Commission during this initial discussion, because his office is currently reviewing the alternatives available. Instead, the Commission unanimously directed the Office of General Counsel to promptly prepare a recommendation for Commission consideration.

Finally, the Commission discussed with the General Counsel the preliminary results of his office's legal research into the interim effects of the circuit court's ruling, including what actions, if any, the newly-constituted Commission may need to take to cure procedural defects, if any, in the previous Commission actions. The General Counsel advised the Commission that it may be able to successfully remedy the effects of the court decision in all instances. The Commission unanimously directed the General Counsel to continue using all legal staff necessary to expeditiously prepare recommendations to the Commission in these matters, including an analysis of the time and cost involved in such remedies.

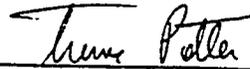
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Importantly, the General Counsel advised the Commission that the Court of Appeals decision does not affect the finality of enforcement cases already closed by the Commission, including litigation which has been finally concluded.

The Commission expects to act quickly once recommendations are received from its General Counsel. Therefore, the Commission should be able to announce shortly the steps it will be taking to remedy any procedural problems raised by the decision in FEC v. National Rifle Association Political Victory Fund. We recognize the important constitutional issues raised by this case, but all Commissioners also take seriously their duty to administer the Federal Election Commission in the weeks and months ahead. It is the Commission's intention to do all that is necessary to ensure that the public's interest in the enforcement of the election laws is protected as these procedural and administrative law questions are addressed by the appropriate authorities.



Scott Thomas
Chairman



Trevor Potter
Vice Chairman

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