

# PUBLIC INTEREST

— LEGAL FOUNDATION —

## **Court of Appeals Out on a Limb Striking Down N.C. Voter ID**

*Appeals judges took over role as fact finder from trial court.*

(Indianapolis, IN) – July 29. The Public Interest Legal Foundation is deeply disappointed with the decision of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in finding that North Carolina election integrity laws were enacted with a racially discriminatory intent. The Court of Appeals today reversed a federal district court which upheld the voter ID law and end to various election procedures such as same day registration.

The Court of Appeals ruled that the law was enacted with an impermissible racial intent.

“The trial court conducted the trial, heard the evidence, and ruled that the law was valid. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals behaved like a trial court and decided that the law had a discriminatory intent,” said J. Christian Adams, President and General Counsel of the Public Interest Legal Foundation. “Normally, appeals courts remand to trial courts to review the evidence with the guidance of the appeals court. The Fourth Circuit undertook the job of a trial court and the integrity of the upcoming election is worse off because of it.”

Among the unusual rulings was the court holding that Section 5 objection letters by the Obama Justice Department about other election procedures constituted relevant evidence of racially discriminatory intent in the voter ID law. Objections are based on a failure to affirmatively disprove discriminatory intent, not because discriminatory intent is found.

**“This case was brought to extract partisan advantage using the Voting Rights Act and sadly the plaintiffs were successful in turning that important civil rights law into a political weapon,” said Adams.**

The Public Interest Legal Foundation filed an amicus brief on behalf of the American Civil Rights Union in the case.

The Public Interest Legal Foundation (PILF) is a 501(c)(3) public interest law firm dedicated to election integrity. PILF exists to assist states and others to aid the cause of election integrity and fight against lawlessness in American elections. Drawing on numerous experts in the field, PILF seeks to protect the right to vote and preserve the Constitutional framework of American elections. Media inquiries: [media@publicinterestlegal.org](mailto:media@publicinterestlegal.org).

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