

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Page 1 of 1

AG ANNOUNCES SENTENCING FOR CAMPAIGN LAW CONVICTION

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced the sentencing today of a former state school board candidate for campaign finance disclosure violations. Troy W. Smithwick Jr., 68, of Sylacauga, was convicted in Talladega County Circuit Court on September 20 of two counts of violating the Alabama Fair Campaign Practices Act. He was sentenced today to a suspended sentence of four months on each count in the county jail to run concurrently, and given 12 months probation. He also received a \$500 fine on each count, plus other court costs and assessments.

The Attorney General's Office presented evidence to a jury in Talladega County resulting in the convictions for which he was sentenced today. In the first count, Smithwick was convicted of failing to file an annual report, as required by Code of Alabama Section 17-5-8(b). The evidence showed that Smithwick, who was an unsuccessful candidate for state school board in the 2008 Republican primary, knowingly did not file an annual report of contributions and expenditures by January 31, 2009, as required by state law. For the second count, Smithwick was convicted of improperly reporting a campaign contribution, in violation of Code of Alabama Section 17-5-8(c)(2). The evidence showed that Smithwick received a campaign contribution from "The Real Democrat PAC" ("TRD PAC") for \$100,000 in May of 2008, but that he knowingly reported that the contribution came instead from the "Tennessee Valley Citizens for Economic Development PAC."

"Campaign finance disclosure laws are an essential part of an open and honest government," said Attorney General Strange. "When these laws are disregarded and broken, the integrity of our government is threatened. The Office of Attorney General is committed to investigating and prosecuting such violations and to protecting our citizen's trust in the integrity of their public representatives."

Attorney General Strange commended those involved in bringing this case to a successful conclusion, noting in particular Assistant Attorneys General Bill Lisenby and Pete Smyczek and Paralegal Lori Arnold of the Attorney General's Public Corruption and White Collar Crime Division, and Assistant Attorneys General Ben Baxley, Thomas Govan, and Brenda Smith for their work on the case, as well as special agents of the Attorney General's Investigations Division.

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