



AG STRANGE ANNOUNCES SUPREME COURT VICTORY IN ELECTRONIC BINGO CASE

(MONTGOMERY) –Attorney General Luther Strange today announced a decisive victory in an Alabama Supreme Court case involving so-called “electronic bingo.” In 2012, law enforcement officers seized nearly 700 illegal slot machines and gambling devices, \$288,657.68 in cash proceeds, and records from the Center Stage casino in Houston County, Alabama. The Alabama Supreme Court ruled today that the trial judge correctly ordered the machines destroyed and the money and records forfeited to the State.

“Since taking office, I have said that I would resolve the debate over electronic bingo in the courts,” said Attorney General Strange. “This ruling from the highest court in our state once again confirms that so-called ‘electronic bingo’ is illegal under state law. I will continue to enforce the law of Alabama, as set forth in our Constitution and interpreted by the Alabama Supreme Court.”

The Alabama Supreme Court held that bingo, under Alabama law, involves “meaningful human interaction” and cannot be “played within the circuitry of electronic machinery.” The Court also held that this test applies to the “other local bingo constitutional amendments in this State.” The Supreme Court explained that:

[T]he game traditionally known as bingo is not one played by or within an electronic or computerized machine, terminal, or server, but is one played outside of machines and electronic circuitry. It is a group activity, and one that requires a meaningful measure of human interaction and skill. . . . In accordance with the previously stated list of characteristics, each player purchases and plays the game on one or more cards that . . . are not electronic devices or electronic depictions of playing surfaces but are actual physical cards made of cardboard, paper, or some other functionally similar material that is flat and is preprinted with the grid and the designations referenced above.

The Supreme Court also held that expert testimony was not necessary to determine whether gambling devices play the game of bingo.

The case is [Houston County Economic Development Authority v. State of Alabama](#), No. 1130388.

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