IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

RICHARD GOODEN, ANDREW JONES, and
EKEYESTO DOSS,

Plaintiffs,

v.

NANCY WORLEY, in her official capacity as
Alabama Secretary of State; NELL
HUNTER, in her official capacity as
Jefferson County Voter Registrar; and
ANITA GIBSON, WALTER LONG, and MOLLY
MEADOWS in their official capacities as
Houston County Voter Registrars,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:05-cv-2562

Exhibit 10
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 17, 2005

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OR
PHIL BRYANT
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AS WE HAVE WORKED TO IMPLEMENT 15-22-36.1, THE LAW PROVIDING FOR CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE, WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT MANY ELIGIBLE VOTERS ARE UNAWARE OF AMENDMENT 579 OF THE ALABAMA CONSTITUTION, RATIFIED ON JUNE 19, 1996. THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT RESTORED THE VOTING RIGHTS OF MANY ALABAMIANS, WHO DO NOT NEED A CERTIFICATE FROM THIS AGENCY IN ORDER TO REGISTER TO VOTE.

UNDER THE CURRENT ALABAMA LAW, ONLY FELONIES INVOLVING MORAL TURPITUDE DISQUALIFY A PERSON FROM VOTING. CONVICTIONS FOR OTHER FELONIES DO NOT DISQUALIFY A PERSON FROM VOTING.
IF PEOPLE WHO ARE ALREADY ELIGIBLE TO VOTE DO NOT ASK US FOR CERTIFICATES, WE CAN PROCESS THE OTHER APPLICATIONS MORE PROMPTLY.

THERE IS A LOT OF GRAY AREA IN THE LAW REGARDING CRIMES OF MORAL TURPITUDE. IN THEORY, THE DISTINCTION IS BETWEEN CRIMES THAT ARE INHERENTLY WRONG AND CRIMES THAT ARE FELONIES ONLY BECAUSE THEY ARE PROHIBITED. WHILE THERE ARE SOME CASES THAT ARE NOT CLEAR, FELONIES INVOLVING THEFT, FRAUD OR DISHONESTY WOULD CAUSE THE PERSON TO LOSE HIS VOTING RIGHTS. SIMILARLY, FELONIES INVOLVING VIOLENCE DISQUALIFY THE PERSON FROM VOTING.

FOR A LIST OF CRIMES INVOLVING MORAL TURPITUDE, I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE AG’S OPINION ADDRESSED TO WILLIAM SEGREST, DATED MARCH 18, 2005, OPINION # 2005-092.

HOWEVER, WHILE NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO INVOLVE MORAL TURPITUDE:

1. BURGLARY
2. ROBBERY
3. FORGERY (TO INCLUDE PRESCRIPTIONS)
4. CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF FORGED INSTRUMENT
5. SALE OF MARIJUANA OR OTHER DRUGS
6. (POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA OR OTHER DRUG) FOR RESALE AND POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE
7. THEFT
8. RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY, ANY DEGREE
9. VIOLENT OR SEX OFFENSES

THE FOLLOWING CONVICTIONS, WHILE NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, HAVE BEEN DETERMINED NOT TO INVOLVE MORAL TURPITUDE:

1. FELONY DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE
7. FELONY POSSESSION OF DRUGS

PLEASE NOTE THAT A MISDEMEANOR OR A CONVICTION OF A VIOLATION DOES NOT DISQUALIFY A PERSON FROM REGISTERING TO VOTE.