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For Immediate Release

Free Speech Denied in Illinois Attorney General rules against Libertarian Candidates

Marion, IL. - January 9, 2016 - Scott Schluter, candidate for 117th Illinois General Assembly, and Claire Ball, candidate for Illinois Comptroller, filed a lawsuit last November challenging the banning of Medical Marijuana businesses in Illinois from participating in the political process. The law prohibits cultivation centers and dispensaries from donating to political campaigns, candidates, or PACs.

After requesting an extension of the original deadline due to scheduling conflicts, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has reviewed the case and has denied all allegations that the ban is unconstitutional. The case, filed by The Pillar of Law Institute and The Liberty Justice Center, will come before U.S. District Judge John Z. Lee with a hearing set for January 20th.

Schluter was disappointed, but not discouraged, to read Madigan's statement. "These are legitimate, legal businesses that are being excluded from the political process that everyone else participates in; including tobacco, alcohol, and other pharmaceutical companies. This is nothing but discrimination and a gross violation of Illinoisans right to free speech. Our state lawmakers have decided that they get to pick

and choose, on a whim, which Illinois residents can be denied their rights. With this response, Lisa Madigan and the State of Illinois have shown their disdain for your rights and equality. This is a huge blow to liberty-minded people everywhere and is in stark contrast with the principles that founded this great country.”

This the first of many steps towards loosening the restrictions on a legitimate medicine and helping people get the treatment they need. Schluter and Ball hope the lawsuit is ruled in their favor quickly, and that they can lead the charge in bringing about more modern thinking about marijuana and eventual legalization. As Schluter says “It’s ridiculous that we still have these barbaric laws across the country that throw people in cages because a bunch of old white guys in ties disapprove of their gardens. It’s past time that we start getting the government out of our gardens and out of our lives.”

Scott Schluter is a father and an Iraq war veteran. He attended Southeastern Illinois College where he graduated with two degrees in Diesel Technology. Scott is a lifelong resident of Southern Illinois where he works as a Diesel Mechanic. He is currently the Chair of the Southern Illinois Libertarian Party, Political Division Director for the Libertarian Party of Illinois, and Libertarian Precinct Committeeman in his home precinct of Crab Orchard. Scott is a staunch believer in the principles of the United States Constitution and wants to bring those principles back to Illinois government. In an effort to reach this goal, Scott is running for IL General Assembly in the 117th Representative District. As Scott puts it, he wants to go to Springfield to regulate Springfield, not the people.

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