

For Immediate Release

Oklahoma Attorney General drops charges against Paul Jacob

CHICAGO, January 22 – The Sam Adams Alliance is relieved to learn that Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, after finding himself with his back against the wall due to a string of embarrassing legal failures, has dropped all charges against initiative rights activist and Sam Adams Alliance senior adviser Paul Jacob.

The charges brought against us by the attorney general have now been dismissed. They should never have been brought in the first place,” Jacob said in a statement. “We did not break the law and, as we all now know, the law itself is unconstitutional.

Sam Adams Alliance President John Tsarpalas echoed Jacob’s sentiments. “Paul should have never been prosecuted in the first place. It’s a shame that Paul and his family had to endure the stress and hardship caused by this senseless prosecution.”

Jacobs was indicted along with Susan Johnson, President of National Voter Outreach and Oklahomans in Action leader, Rick Carpenter, in October of 2007. The “Oklahoma 3” as they have become nationally known as, were charged with “conspiracy to defraud the state,” after they conducted a petition drive in 2005 for the Oklahoma TABOR initiative, which would have placed a Taxpayer Bill of Rights initiative on Oklahoma's November 2006 general election ballot.

“The taxpayers of Oklahoma have to foot the enormous legal bills because a power-hungry Attorney General was only concerned about his own political ambitions,” Tsarpalas said. “Dropping the charges against the *Oklahoma 3* doesn’t mean justice has prevailed. Not until Edmondson is held accountable for abusing his office will justice be served.”

Tsarpalas noted additionally that the 18-month long prosecution has been a national embarrassment to Oklahoma, with the Wall Street Journal comparing it to what people in Pakistan would expect from their government, while Steve Forbes of Forbes Magazine asked “Has North Korea Annexed Oklahoma?”

While the Jacob family can rest easily tonight knowing that Paul’s grandchildren won’t have to visit him in prison, Jacob knows the battle to protect citizen rights is far from over.

###

John Tsarpalas, President
Sam Adams Alliance
312-920-0080 ext. 305
jtsarpalas@samadamsalliance.org

