

Blackburn&McCune, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

W. GARY BLACKBURN ▲
PERRY R. HAPPELL •
MALCOLM L. McCUNE ▲
MATHEW R. ZENNER ◆
JOHN RAY CLEMMONS
J. MICHAEL CLEMMONS

OF COUNSEL
JOHN K. MADDIN, JR.

- CERTIFIED AS A CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY SPECIALIST BY THE TN COMMISSION ON CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION & SPECIALIZATION AND THE AMERICAN BOARD OF CERTIFICATION
- ◆ ALSO ADMITTED IN MINNESOTA
- ▼ ALSO ADMITTED IN GEORGIA & SOUTH CAROLINA
- ▲ RULE 31 MEDIATOR

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: W.Gary Blackburn or John Ray Clemmons, (615) 254-7770

July 8, 2009

Nashville, TN – Attorneys W. Gary Blackburn and John Ray Clemmons of BLACKBURN & McCUNE, PLLC will file a civil action today on behalf of a current and former County Administrators of Elections in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee. Named Defendants are Republican Party appointees to the county election commissions in Cannon, DeKalb, Henry, Loudon, Putnam, Rhea, Rutherford, and Weakley counties.

The civil action seeks to redress the politically motivated and unconstitutional actions of the Republican county election commissioners who, at the apparent instruction of state and county Republican Party officials, terminated or threatened to terminate highly qualified and experienced administrators of elections across the state of Tennessee.

“It is irresponsible to threaten the facilitation of free and fair elections by using a political test to terminate highly qualified and experienced public servants who are responsible for protecting the very essence of our democracy,” said attorney Gary Blackburn. “The Republican Party and its officials’ politically motivated attempts to simultaneously replace administrators of elections across this state from a position which requires a great deal of institutional knowledge and understanding of the law is adverse to the very ideals on which our republic was founded. Tennesseans, like all Americans, expect and deserve to vote in well organized and legal elections and have their vote counted by someone who values democracy more than party politics.” Blackburn added.

The lawsuit’s causes of action include the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, Article One of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee, and 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1985(3).

Blackburn & McCune, PLLC is a full service civil litigation firm representing corporate and private clients. The firm also has an active mediation practice.

###

