

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SENATOR MITCH McCONNELL,)
<i>et al.</i> ,)
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
v.)
)
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION,)
<i>et al.</i> ,)
)
Defendants.)

Civil Action No.
02-0582 (CKK, KLH, RJI)
Consolidated Actions
DECLARATION

DECLARATION OF JOHN GLENN

1. My name is John Glenn.
2. I had the honor of serving as a United States Senator from the State of Ohio from 1975 through 1998. Serving as a Member of the Senate fulfilled my lifelong interest in public service. I served as the ranking Democratic Member of the United States Senate Governmental Affairs Committee ("Committee") in 1997, when the Committee conducted a nine-month special investigation into illegal and improper activities in connection with federal election campaigns. After the special investigation was concluded, the Committee issued a six-volume report, which included both Majority and Minority views. Investigation of Illegal or Improper Activities in Connection with 1996 Federal Election Campaigns, S. Rep. No. 105-167 (1998). Since I left the Senate, I have devoted a significant portion of my time to The John Glenn Institute of Public Service and Public Policy at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.
3. The Committee's 1997 investigation clearly showed that the rise of large soft money donations has gotten out of control, and that the problem is bipartisan.

~~4. One example discovered by the Committee of a person who donated soft money for~~
access and influence is Roger Tamraz, who donated money to both parties over the course of
several years because he wanted access to lobby for his oil pipeline project. Tamraz was
ultimately unsuccessful in his lobbying effort, and when he was asked what lessons he learned
from \$300,000 in soft money donations that did not achieve the lobbying result that he wanted,
he said that he learned he should donate \$600,000 next time. Investigation of Illegal or Improper
Activities in Connection with 1996 Federal Election Campaigns: Hearings Before the Senate
Comm. of Governmental Affairs, 105th Cong. 184 (testimony of Roger E. Tamraz).

5. The Senate Committee investigation revealed that another serious problem with our
current campaign system is the use of outside interest groups who exploit loopholes in the law by
using so-called issue advertisements immediately before the election. The net effect is huge
sums of undisclosed corporate and union funds being used in connection with a federal election.
These ads are effective at influencing elections even though they may never explicitly urge
people to "vote for" or "vote against" a particular candidate.

6. I support the McCain-Feingold law that is the subject of this litigation, and I voted for
previous versions of the law when I was in the Senate. I hope we can keep this law on the books
because it is a step in the right direction. There is a distinct public perception that large donors
are using soft money to buy access and influence with these donations. The American people
recognize this as a problem, which leads to additional cynicism toward the system and a sense of
disenfranchisement. In fact, one of the reasons I started the Institute of Public Service at Ohio
State University is that I became so concerned that so many of our young people in particular
and older folks, too, have such a jaundiced and cynical view of anything to do with government
and politics. If people do not believe in our system, then the Constitution becomes meaningless.

~~7. I hope that when the courts review this law, they consider what the future of this~~
country is going to be. In this case, the courts will be dealing with an issue that is going to
be a key part of whether this country continues to look at itself as a country that represents
every citizen's interests equally, or whether we go back toward that oligarchy from which
we escaped in 1776. Yet the great thing about this country is that there is no such thing as
an average citizen. Under the Constitution, every citizen should be considered equal and
supreme. If we get away from that, we get away from what makes this country great.

8. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true
and correct.


John Glenn

Executed on October 4, 2002