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SUPREME COURT DECISION IN THIRTY YEAR LONG COURT BATTLE REAFFIRMS NEED TO PROTECT AGAINST VOTER FRAUD

*Genova Succeeds in Voting Rights Victory on behalf of Democratic National Committee
against Republican National Committee*

NEWARK, NJ – The Supreme Court refused to lift a 30-year consent decree that bars the Republican National Committee (RNC) from targeting racial and ethnic minorities in its efforts to end fraudulent voting.

The justices, without comment, turned down an appeal from RNC lawyers to lift the decree.

“Today the Supreme Court, in denying a writ of certiorari in this case, reaffirms the vital necessity of the original consent decree. The order remains integral to enforcing critical protections against minority voter suppression throughout our nation, protections that are as important today as they were thirty years ago,” said Angelo J. Genova, Esq. of Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster LLC, special counsel to the Democratic National Committee (DNC).

The case began in 1981, when the RNC and New Jersey Republican State Committee (NJRSC) entered into a consent order with the DNC and New Jersey Democratic Committee, represented by Genova, where the Republican party agreed to submit proposed “ballot security programs” for federal court review after those programs were accused of discriminating against minority voters.

In the lawsuit, the RNC and NJRSC were alleged to have created a voter challenge list targeting precincts with a high percentage of registered minority voters, and enlisting the help of off-duty law enforcement officers to intimidate voters by standing at polling places in minority precincts during voting, wearing ‘National Ballot Security Task Force’ armbands and, in some cases, visibly wearing firearms.

Rather than go to trial, the parties entered into a Consent Decree that resolved the case, by prohibiting the RNC and NJRSC from participating in ballot security activities in places where

the racial or ethnic composition of the districts was a factor in the decision to conduct the activities, or where the activities would have the effect of discouraging qualified voters from voting.

The Decree, modified in 1987, was national in scope, preventing the RNC from pursuing such activities in all 50 states.

“The Supreme Court’s denial of certification in this case brings to a close a long and sad chapter in the RNC’s playbook for suppressing minority participation in our democracy dating back decades,” said Genova. “The viability of the seminal federal court order entered in this case – a 1982 Consent Order that effectively deprived the RNC and its affiliates from engaging in ballot security measures whose purpose or effect was to deprive minority voters of their fundamental right to vote – remains intact until December 1, 2017 (unless violated) and for a duration now totaling 35 years. We are pleased that this Consent Order withstood judicial scrutiny, and the Supreme Court declined to upset the trial and appellate court holdings, especially at a time when minority voter participation is under assault.”

A partner and firm co-founder in the law firm of Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster LLC, Angelo Genova is a leading member of the New Jersey Bar in the practice areas of Labor and Employment Law, Election Law and Complex Litigation and Appeals and a noted advocate in Election Law matters. He has successfully litigated many high profile and precedent setting cases, having served as counsel to the campaigns of numerous gubernatorial, and federal, state and local office holders and candidates. Mr. Genova served two terms as Chair of the Election Law Committee for the New Jersey State Bar Association in 1998 and 1999.

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About Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster LLC – With attorneys admitted to the bar in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and with offices across the tri-state area, Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster LLC provides special competencies across a broad range of practice areas including trial and appellate practice in federal and state courts, aviation & aircraft law, business law & commercial transactions, casino, hospitality & resort development, commercial real estate, redevelopment & environmental law, complex commercial litigation, corporate political activity, education law, employment law & litigation, health & hospital law, labor law, public contract law & bid protest litigation, solid waste & recycling law, white collar criminal defense and corporate internal investigations. The firm also represents clients in diverse administrative regulatory matters before regional state agencies and federal government agencies. The firm currently maintains offices in Newark, Red Bank, Camden, New York City, and Philadelphia. For more information, please visit www.genovaburns.com.