

DATE: April 7, 2015 CONTACT: Edward Erikson, (202) 420-9947

FORMER MONTANA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE JAMES NELSON AND VOTING RIGHTS LEADER GREG MOORE JOIN FREE SPEECH FOR PEOPLE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Free Speech For People, a national, non-partisan campaign to renew American democracy by addressing the dominance of money and corporations in politics, has announced that former Montana Supreme Court Justice James Nelson and voting rights leader Greg Moore have joined Free Speech For People's Board of Directors.



Justice Nelson served as a Justice of the Montana Supreme Court from 1993-2013, when he retired from the Court. He was in private practice and serving as Glacier County Attorney in Montana at the time of his appointment to the state supreme court by then-Governor Marc Racicot. While in private practice, he served as President of the Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation, and a member of the Montana Gaming Advisory Council and the Governor's Task Force on Corrections and Criminal Justice Policy. Among many

widely-respected opinions over his twenty years on the Montana Supreme Court, Justice Nelson's dissenting opinion in the 2011 Western Tradition Partnership case was noted for its combination of a judicious recognition of the applicability of the US Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling to the case before the Montana Supreme Court, its persuasive critique of the Citizens United decision itself, and its discussion of the grave consequences presented by the Citizens United ruling for Montana and the nation. Justice Nelson received his J.D. from George Washington University in 1974 and a B.S. degree from the University of Idaho in 1966. He served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1966-1969 and worked as a financial analyst with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission prior to engaging in private practice in Montana.



Greg Moore is the Senior Strategist for the <u>Democracy Initiative</u> and is one of the nation's leading voting rights leaders and advocates. Dating back to 1983, Mr. Moore has a long and distinguished history of political empowerment and issue advocacy, serving in a number of various leadership positions throughout his many years of grassroots organizing and program development at the local, state and national level. Mr. Moore concurrently serves as the Executive Director of the NAACP National Voter Fund. Mr. Moore served five years as the Legislative Director (93-94) and Chief of

Staff (98-01) to Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.), the Ranking Member of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee and Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus. Mr. Moore is also the President and CEO of GTM Consulting Services, a Washington, DC and Cleveland, Ohio based political consulting firm that specializes in program development, public-policy analysis, issue advocacy and election services. Mr. Moore holds a Bachelors of Science Degree from Ohio

University where he majored in Organizational Communications. He has lectured on several college campuses over his long career in advocating for issues related to equal educational opportunity, civil rights, voting rights and democratic reform.

"I am committed to the work of Free Speech For People because this organization is leading the effort to amend the Constitution and preserve the integrity of our elections, our judiciary, and our state and federal democracy -- all of which are at risk from the corrupting effects of *Citizens United*," said Justice Nelson.

"I am honored to be joining the Honorable Justice Nelson in serving on the board of an organization committed to protecting the voices of all the citizens in our democracy," said Greg Moore. "Free Speech For People is playing an important leadership role in turning back the detrimental impact of *Citizens United* and other Supreme Court rulings that are eroding our democratic process. I look forward to working with all the members of the board and staff in advancing this battle to the next level."

"We are honored to have Justice Nelson and Greg Moore join our Board of Directors," said Jeff Clements, Free Speech For People's Co-Founder and Board Chair. "They each bring decades of leadership experience to our work to ensure that all Americans can help our nation keep the promise of government of, by, and for the people. All of us at Free Speech For People are thrilled to be working now alongside them and with people across the country, regardless of political party, to end SuperPACs and corruption and to renew our democracy of equal citizenship."

Free Speech For People, launched on the day of the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* ruling more than five years ago, works both in the courts and for a 28th Amendment to the US Constitution to overturn the ruling and to reclaim our democracy.

For more information, visit <u>www.freespeechforpeople.org</u>. For a full list of Free Speech For People's Board Members, see: <u>http://freespeechforpeople.org/node/609</u>.

-30-