



Republican National Lawyers Association

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RNLA Responds To ACORN Ruling

Washington, D.C. – Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA) Chairman David A. Norcross released the following statement today in response to a ruling stating the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) can continue to receive federal, taxpayer dollars:

“So a federal court has ruled that ACORN – an organization accused of and admittedly engaged in fraudulent and illegal activity in multiple states – has a constitutional right to taxpayer funds? Who are they kidding? This same court questioned why Congress had not investigated ACORN. The Department of Justice’s feckless defense of Congress’s action cutting off funding to ACORN and protecting American taxpayers combined with its failure to prosecute the Philadelphia New Black Panthers for voter intimidation has led to the conclusion that politics can thwart the rule of law. The Republican National Lawyers Association will continue to call out the illegal activities of ACORN until every dime of taxpayer funding has dried up. ACORN may have all the Obama ‘powers that be’ protecting it from being held to account and Democrat lawmakers in their back pocket, but those seeking to bring this criminal enterprise to account have the support of the American people.”

BACKGROUND:

“The U.S. government’s move this fall to cut off funding to ACORN was unconstitutional, a federal judge ruled Friday, handing the embattled group a legal victory. U.S. District Judge Nina Gershon issued the preliminary injunction against the government, saying it’s in the public’s interest for the organization to continue receiving federal funding. ACORN claimed in its lawsuit that Congress’ decision to cut off its funding was unconstitutional because it punitively targeted an individual organization.” ([“Move To Cut ACORN Funding Ruled Unconstitutional,”](#) The Associated Press, 12/11/09)

“A federal judge in Brooklyn is hearing a case that challenges the defunding of the non-profit ACORN ... Judge Nina Gershon questioned why there were no congressional investigations into ACORN if elected officials were concerned that funds were being misused.” (Cindy Rodriguez, [“ACORN Defunding Challenged In Brooklyn Court,”](#) WNYC-New York Public Radio, 12/5/09)

“House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers Jr. has backed off his plan to investigate wrongdoing by the liberal activist group ACORN, saying ‘powers that be’ put the kibosh on the idea. Mr. Conyers, Michigan Democrat, earlier bucked his party leaders by calling for hearings on accusations the Association of Community Organization for Reform Now (ACORN) has committed crimes ranging from voter fraud to a mob-style ‘protection’ racket. ‘The powers that be decided against it,’ Mr. Conyers told The Washington Times.” (S.A. Miller, [“Conyers Abandons Plan To Probe ACORN,”](#) *The Washington Times*, 6/26/09)