

**MEDIA ALERT VIA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL**

**Rob McKenna**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON**  
**1125 Washington Street SE · PO Box 40100 · Olympia WA 98504-0100**

For Immediate Release:  
Jan. 8, 2007

**McKenna argues first case before US Supreme Court**  
***Media availability prior to argument, news conference immediately following argument***

**Washington, DC**—Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna will make his first appearance before the United States Supreme Court Wednesday, presenting the state's argument in *Washington v. Washington Education Association*.

McKenna will ask the US Supreme Court to reverse a Washington State Supreme Court decision, ruling part of Washington's voter-approved campaign finance law unconstitutional.

The U.S. Supreme Court will decide whether it is unconstitutional to require unions to have teachers, who are required to pay union fees but who are not union members, affirmatively "opt-in" to have some of those fees spent on the union's political activities.

Initiative 134, passed by 73 percent of Washington voters in 1992, required Washington labor organizations to obtain the "affirmative authorization" (opt-in) of non-members before the organization could spend the fees for the union's political contributions and expenditures to influence an election or to operate a political committee.

The WEA contends all it is required to do is allow non-members the option to "opt out" of having their fees used for political purposes.

In a 6-3 decision on March 16, 2006, the State Supreme Court struck down the portion of I-134 requiring the WEA to obtain affirmative authorization. The case will be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court on January 10.

**Pre-Argument Media Availability:**

**When:**

1 p.m. EST (10 a.m. PST), Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2007

**Where:**

National Association of Attorneys General Conference Room, 2030 M Street NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington DC

**Teleconference line:**

Media unable to attend in person may access the availability via teleconference at: 1-866-822-0470 (60 lines available)

**Post-Argument News Conference:**

**When:**

12:15 to 12:45 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2007

**Where:**

US Supreme Court Plaza, Washington DC

**For media unable to attend in person, please contact Janelle Guthrie at (360) 584-3046 to schedule interviews after noon PST.**

--30--

Contact: Janelle Guthrie, Attorney General's Office Communications Director, (360) 584-3046