



For Immediate Release

October 8, 2013

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Supreme Court Case Could Give Wealthy Even Greater Say in U.S. Politics

McCutcheon v. FEC seeks to overturn aggregate contribution limits.

Portland, ME – The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments today on a contribution limits case that could dramatically increase the role and importance of wealthy individuals in our elections. *McCutcheon v. FEC* challenges the aggregate limit on contributions, the federal limits governing how much an individual may contribute to all party committees, PACs, and candidates in a two-year election cycle.

“People in Maine and across this country support common-sense campaign contribution limits. The case being heard today seeks to weaken our campaign finance laws, by allowing unlimited contributions from a wealthy few,” said BJ McCollister, Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) Program Director. “Less than three years after the disastrous *Citizens United* ruling, *McCutcheon* threatens to make a bad situation even worse.”

Under current law, individuals are limited to contributing a total amount of \$74,600 to party committees and PACs, and \$48,600 to federal candidates. The restrictions exist in addition to limits on what a person can give to any one candidate, PAC, or party committee. The court has previously upheld aggregate limits as a way to prevent the evasion of contribution limits and corruption or the appearance of corruption. The court is not expected to issue a ruling on the case until the middle of 2014.

“*McCutcheon* argues for rolling back longstanding laws so the super rich can put a million or more dollars directly into the hands of our elected officials,” continued McCollister. “Should *McCutcheon* and his allies have their way we can expect our elected officials to spend even more time courting the wealthiest of donors. It’s difficult to imagine how the voices of everyday people will be heard in Washington if the Court keeps turning up the volume on the campaign cash megaphone.”

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