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Renegade GA Sheriff Takes Halloween Sign Case to 11th Circuit

Nation's largest sex offender organizations join to fight Sheriff Long

The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (**NARSOL**) will join forces with the Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws (**ACSOL**) to file an amicus brief in support of an important appellate action related to the placement of Halloween signs in the yards of registered sex offenders in Georgia.

After losing the first round in federal court, Sheriff Gary Long of Butts County, Georgia has made good on his promise to appeal Judge Marc T. Treadwell's [25-page order](#) granting a preliminary injunction against Sheriff Long and other county officials (See Appeal NO. 19-14730-B).

Last October, Judge Treadwell agreed with the complainants that placing signs on the private property of registered sex offenders violated their constitutional rights. Sheriffs and county officials "should be aware that the authority for their blanket sign posting is dubious at best and even more dubious if posted over the objection of registrants," wrote Judge Treadwell.

That action was initiated and financed by the National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws ([NARSOL](#)) and filed by Georgia attorneys Mark Yurachek and Mark Begnaud. NARSOL subsequently [delivered a warning letter](#) to Sheriff Lee Cone of Ben Hill County who was also erecting signs on the property of registered sexual offenders for Halloween.

Brenda Jones, NARSOL's Executive Director stated, "This case is of paramount importance because Sheriff Long has unilaterally imposed a sign requirement despite the fact that there is no such requirement in the Georgia statutory scheme. If a sheriff can invent his or her own requirements and impose them at will, who knows what constitutional violation is next?"

"If we stand by and turn a blind eye when the Constitution is trampled, none of us are safe," Janice Bellucci, ACSOL's president, added. "If a government official can compel another to speak, the First Amendment is meaningless."

Jones concluded by stating, "NARSOL is confident that Judge Treadwell's decision to grant injunctive relief will be affirmed by the Eleventh Circuit." While this appeal is

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RATIONAL SEXUAL OFFENSE LAWS

Fighting to restore dignity & constitutional rights to millions.

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pending, the underlying case is underway, and both NARSOL and ACSOL are optimistic that the case will be concluded prior to Halloween of this year.

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NARSOL is the nation's largest civil rights organization advocating on behalf of registered citizens and their families. NARSOL opposes dehumanizing registries and works to eliminate discrimination, banishment, and vigilantism against persons accused or convicted of sexual offenses through the use of impact litigation, public education, legislative advocacy, and media outreach in order to reintegrate and reconcile affected individuals and restore their constitutional rights.