

## TENNESSEE GOVERNMENT UPDATE

NEWS FOR THE CLIENTS AND FRIENDS OF BASS, BERRY & SIMS PLC

### Friday, March 19, 2010

Tennessee Attorney General Bob Cooper addressed the constitutionality of the provision of Tennessee's election finance law in light of the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the *Citizens United* case. In an opinion in response to a question posed by House Republican Caucus Chairman Glen Casada, Cooper concluded that the provision of Tennessee law implicated "is unconstitutional to the extent that it prohibits corporations from making independent expenditures for the purpose of aiding either in the election or defeat in any primary or final election of a candidate for public office." [Click here to read Opinion No. 10-30](#) dated March 11, 2010.

Another dispute has come to light involving legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly and signed by the governor about firearms. Guns confiscated by Memphis police as evidence and later sold were used in attacks on the Las Vegas courthouse on January 4, 2010 and at the Pentagon on March 4, 2010. On March 3, 2010, Governor Bredesen signed a bill into law that forbids destruction of confiscated guns and requires them to be sold or kept for law enforcement use. Shelby County Mayor A. C. Wharton and Shelby County Sheriff Mark Luttrell both expressed their concern about the new statute. *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis [has the full story](#).

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