

**FROM THE IUSA SUPREME COURT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 29, 2009**

Bloomington, IN – On March 29, 2009, the Student Body Supreme Court of Indiana University accepted the Btown ticket's petition for *writ of certiorari* regarding the March 25, 2009 Elections Commission's decision. The Court vacated the Elections Commission's decision and remanded the case.

On March 25, 2009, the Elections Commission fined the Btown Ticket \$106.47 for the improper submission of financial documentation per the Elections Code section 603. The petition filed by Btown stated that the Elections Commission did not allow the ticket an opportunity to respond to the question of improperly prepared financial statements.

The Court found that the Btown ticket was denied due process since the ticket was not given the opportunity to respond to the accusations of improperly prepared financial statements. This right to due process is guaranteed both by the IUSA Constitution and the United States Constitution. As such, the Court has remanded the case to the Elections Commission with instructions to vacate the original judgment.

Furthermore, the Court offered an opinion regarding Section 603 of the Elections Code. The Court found that Section 603 is ambiguous regarding the requirement to provide signatures from each individual campaign contributor on the financial statement inasmuch as it does not clarify whose signatures are required. In addition, a grammatical issue in the final sentence of the section exacerbates the ambiguity of the signature requirement. While the Court did not provide an interpretation of this section of the Elections Code in the current decision, the Court did instruct the Elections Commission, when hearing this case, to consider both the ambiguity of Section 603 and the Commission's responsibility to clarify that ambiguity.

The Court's full decision regarding this petition can be found at www.indiana.edu/~court.

About the IUSA Supreme Court, or the Student Body Supreme Court of Indiana University:

The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body on the Indiana University-Bloomington campus. The Court consists of 1 Chief Justice and 10 Associate Justices who come from the undergraduate, graduate and professional schools of the University. The Court serves as the judicial branch of the student government and fulfills various adjudication roles within the personal misconduct procedures of the University. Associate Justices also serve on a variety of college advisory and policy boards.

For more information:

The Student Body Supreme Court of Indiana University's Web site can be found at www.indiana.edu/~court. The Court may be contacted by e-mail at court@indiana.edu.

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