



Court: IRS Still Targeting Conservative Groups

“Absurd to suggest” otherwise.

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The D.C. District Court of Appeals, considered the second most powerful court in the land, has found no evidence that the IRS has ceased targeting conservative groups.

According to [PJ Media](#), the three-judge panel recently reversed two decisions in lower courts that dismissed lawsuits against the IRS for targeting two conservative organizations, Linchpins of Liberty and True the Vote. Both groups have been under extra scrutiny by the tax agency and there are other conservative groups still waiting for the IRS to approve their tax-exempt status. Thus, in its review, the court determined that “it is absurd to suggest that the effect of the IRS's unlawful conduct ... has been eradicated.”

Even though the IRS promised in these lawsuits to back off of tea party organizations, the judges feel the practice hasn't stopped. The federal agency was able to persuade the judges not to punish individual IRS employees since no personal tax information was disclosed, but the court isn't letting the agency as a whole off so easy.

As the report notes, internal FBI interviews of IRS employees indicate that someone from higher up in the agency was directing employees to go after conservative groups, with one remembering seeing documents labeled with “Tea Party” and feeling they shouldn't be using that term.

Cato Institute's senior fellow Walter Olson is praising the court's decisions:

"This is a blistering rebuke to the IRS and its defenders. It takes on squarely the defense the IRS had raised in this case which is, 'Whatever happened, we promise not to do it again.'

"The court goes through and systematically takes that apart in a way that's very damaging to the IRS's overall defense.”