

# PRESS RELEASE

## GeorgiaCarry.org Files Suit Against Stone Mountain Memorial Association

*Lawsuit filed alleges violation of State preemption laws; seeks repeal of ordinances*

**Atlanta, May 19, 2008:** GeorgiaCarry.org, Inc. (GCO) filed a lawsuit today in Dekalb County Superior Court against the Stone Mountain Memorial Association (SMMA), the state agency that owns Stone Mountain Park, because the agency unlawfully prohibits the carry and possession of firearms in Stone Mountain Park. In the lawsuit, GCO claims that Stone Mountain Memorial Association's ordinances banning firearms are preempted by State Law and the State Constitution, and violate the U.S. Constitution. GCO seeks a declaration that the ordinances are invalid and an injunction prohibiting enforcement of the ordinances.

GCO received notification from counsel for SMMA stating simply that they "respectfully disagree" with the position of the pro-gun organization. Based on this decision to simply ignore the request submitted by GCO, there was no other viable option than to pursue a resolution via litigation. GCO Vice President and Chief Legal Counsel John Monroe stated, "as with every other municipality and jurisdiction we have contacted regarding the pre-emption law, we again sought to avoid litigation, however we have no choice in this matter. Simply stating that there is a disagreement of the interpretation does not change the fact that the SMMA is in violation of laws which have been upheld by courts up to and including the Georgia Court of Appeals."

GCO recently won a similar case against the City of Atlanta, where the Fulton County Superior Court ruled that Atlanta's parks ban ordinance violates State Law. Similar cases have been won in Coweta County and Athens-Clarke County. Several other counties and municipalities

throughout the state have repealed or modified similar laws, codes, and ordinances at the request of GCO in order to avoid litigation.

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*GeorgiaCarry.org (GCO) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Georgia's right to keep and bear arms. GCO's mission is carried out through selected litigation, grassroots legislative efforts, and active participation with elected officials at all levels throughout Georgia.*