

# THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



*Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law*

FOR PLANNING PURPOSES: November 8, 2011

## **MEDIA ADVISORY: TCP Expert Available for Comment on *Jones* Location Tracking Hearing**

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments next Tuesday in *United States v Jones*, a vitally important case on privacy protections in the digital age. The Constitution Project's Senior Policy Counsel, Sharon Bradford Franklin, will attend the oral arguments and will be available for comment, based on TCP's bipartisan report and *amicus* brief.

In this case, Antoine Jones challenged law enforcement's placing a GPS tracking device on his car and tracking his whereabouts continuously for 28 days without a valid warrant. In early October, TCP filed [an \*amicus\* brief with the Court](#) arguing that law enforcement's unlimited use of tracking devices "raises the specter of an Orwellian society," in which government agents can subject citizens to extensive monitoring using increasingly intrusive technology without any judicial oversight.

The *amicus* brief was based on TCP's [Statement on Location Tracking](#), a comprehensive policy analysis endorsed by 24 members of the group's bipartisan Liberty and Security Committee, including: former members of Congress Asa Hutchinson (R-AR) and Mickey Edwards (R-OK); former U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Patricia Wald; former federal judge and FBI Director William S. Sessions; and David Keene, former chair of the American Conservative Union. The Committee concluded the Fourth Amendment requires that law enforcement officials obtain a warrant based upon probable cause before seeking GPS or other electronic location tracking information for a period of more than 24-hours, or before installing a tracking device on an individual's property.

To arrange an interview with Ms. Franklin, please contact Larry Akey at [lakey@constitutionproject.org](mailto:lakey@constitutionproject.org) or 202-580-6922.

### [About The Constitution Project](#)

Established in 1997, The Constitution Project (TCP) is known for its ability to bring together unlikely allies-experts

and practitioners from across the political spectrum-in order to promote and safeguard America's founding charter. TCP is working to reform the nation's broken criminal justice system and to strengthen the rule of law by undertaking scholarship, consensus policy reforms, advocacy and public education. TCP was born out of the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us, in order to keep our Constitution and our democracy strong.

