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Porzio Attorney, Brian Sharkey, Testifies Before The New Jersey Legislature About *Citizens United V. Federal Election Commission* And Its Impact On New Jersey's Pay-To-Play Laws And Campaign Finance System

MORRISTOWN, NEW JERSEY—February 18, 2010—On February 18, 2010, Brian P. Sharkey, counsel at Porzio, Bromberg & Newman (“Porzio”), a leading New Jersey law firm, testified before Chairwoman Linda R. Greenstein and members of the Assembly Judiciary Committee regarding the implications of United States Supreme Court opinion, *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, at the State House in Trenton, New Jersey. In Mr. Sharkey’s testimony, he concluded that the Supreme Court’s decision should have very little, if any, impact on the State’s current pay-to-play laws.

“It was very productive to speak with the Committee members about the proliferation of local pay-to-play laws and how they affect businesses. There was a robust discussion among the committee and panelists, and this is certainly an issue that should be closely followed,” said Mr. Sharkey, who also serves as Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs for the law firm’s lobbying subsidiary, Porzio Governmental Affairs. He further explains, “Future congressional races in New Jersey and future court cases will tell us how, if at all, *Citizens United* will affect us here in New Jersey.”

Christopher P. DePhillips, a principal of Porzio and a Vice President and General Counsel of Porzio Governmental Affairs, states, “Brian is the leading voice in New Jersey on the meaning and interpretation of our State, county, and municipal pay-to-play laws. His testimony to the Committee reflected Porzio’s years of service and counsel to our clients in the area of election law and campaign finance compliance. The maze of laws and

ordinances in New Jersey on pay-to-play has been confusing and burdensome to our clients, and Brian drove that point home to the Committee members in his testimony.”

Mr. Sharkey highlighted some other key points during his testimony: *Citizens United* focused on federal law and federal candidates; *Citizens United* focused on corporate and union expenditures, not direct contributions to candidates, which is the focus of our State, county, and municipal pay-to-play laws; *Citizens United* is inapplicable to New Jersey because the State does not have a law banning electioneering communications; and the New Jersey Supreme Court recently found the State’s pay-to-play law constitutional. For a copy of Mr. Sharkey’s full written testimony, please visit www.pbnlaw.com.

About Porzio, Bromberg & Newman P.C.

Founded in 1962, Porzio, Bromberg & Newman P.C. has more than 90 lawyers and maintains offices in Morristown and Princeton, New Jersey and New York City. The firm is committed to serving clients, dedicated to providing high quality work and focused on achieving results. Porzio, Bromberg & Newman provides a broad array of litigation, corporate, transactional and counseling services to clients ranging from Fortune 500 corporations to individuals to public entities. For additional information, please visit www.pbnlaw.com.

About Porzio Governmental Affairs, LLC

Porzio Governmental Affairs provides comprehensive lobbying, business development, grassroots advocacy and public relations services to its clients. The services of Porzio Governmental Affairs complement the services of the lawyers of Porzio, Bromberg & Newman P.C. who counsel clients on compliance with NJ ELEC regulations, campaign and election laws, environmental and land use regulations, and FDA and other statutory schemes.

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