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Date: Mon, May 29, 2017 at 8:00 AM  
Subject: Justice Delayed is Justice Denied  
To: Oklahoma

**JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED:  
Oklahoma's High Court Has a Chance to Right a Decades-Old Wrong**

By Oliver "Buck" Revell

**A LETTER TO OKLAHOMA:**

Justice delayed any further is justice denied; Bribery is unconstitutional and it's time AT&T refunded billions to Oklahoma ratepayers – including State Government.

In its January 2017 *Briefcase* magazine, the Oklahoma County Bar Association highlighted the 50th anniversary of *Johnson v. Johnson*, a 1967 decision addressing the horrifying bribery scandal at the Oklahoma Supreme Court. In the 1960s, not only did Justice Corn confess to taking bribes throughout his decades on the Supreme Court, he even testified about sharing some of the money with two other justices as well.

In the 1967 *Johnson* case, the Oklahoma Supreme Court decided, for practical reasons, it would not reopen 1,000-plus decisions involving Justice Corn and potentially tainted by his corruption. But in an acknowledgment that some remedy was warranted for those wronged by Corn, the Court made its ruling while "at the same time giving full right to any person who believes that any such decision has been corruptly obtained, to petition this Court for a hearing, in which, if corruption can be shown, the decision may be set aside."

Fifty years later, the *Johnson* precedent will be tested anew, as an exceptional group of Oklahomans – including former commanding general of Tinker Air Force Base Richard Burpee, former FBI special agent in charge Bob Ricks, Vice-Mayor of Nichols Hills Sody Clements, and businessman Rodd Moesel – are asking the Supreme Court to overturn a bribed 1989 telephone rate decision at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission that, they say, could require AT&T to refund some \$16 billion to Oklahoma ratepayers, including State Government. To bring those billions home to individual Oklahomans, a group called Oklahomans Against Bribery estimates refunds of \$10,000 per AT&T landline in the state since 1989. Corporation Commissioner Bob Anthony recently told a committee of the Oklahoma House of Representatives that State Government could be in line to receive \$200-500 million.

Righting this manifest wrong has been a long time coming. For decades, the OCC has declined to do anything about the corruption at its agency – for which both an OCC commissioner and an attorney for AT&T went to federal prison – allowing the bribed vote to stand for more than 25 years. The citizens who have brought the bribery refund case to the Oklahoma Supreme Court allege that new evidence shows the Supreme Court itself was also defrauded by attorneys involved with the AT&T bribery when the case was first appealed there in 1991 (and before the bribery was publicly known). The old adage tells us that "justice delayed is justice denied." In

the OCC case, the victims of bribery have waited long enough.

In the 1967 *Johnson* case, the Oklahoma Supreme Court said any person who believes a decision has been corruptly obtained can petition the Court for a hearing. The question now, 50 years later, is whether our Supreme Court still believes evidence of bribery and fraud should get a hearing, especially when there is new evidence to be heard and the case could be worth billions.

All Oklahomans, and especially Oklahoma lawmakers, should pay close attention to this \$16 billion AT&T bribery refund case, and not just because of the significant money at stake. AT&T has literally argued “Bribed votes do count.” So far, they’ve been right. Legal briefs have been filed; it’s time for our state Supreme Court to weigh in. Honest citizens are asking, “Do bribed votes really count in Oklahoma?” The answer will speak volumes for the state of justice – and the sanctity of an honest vote – in today’s Oklahoma.

*Muskogee-born Oliver “Buck” Revell is a retired FBI agent and former Special Agent in Charge of the Oklahoma Division. He also served as the FBI director's deputy in charge of Criminal Investigative, Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Intelligence activities at FBI headquarters in Washington, D.C. during which time he had oversight of the bureau's investigation of the bribery at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.*

For more on Oliver “Buck” Revell, see [www.revellgroup.com/Buck's%20Bio.html](http://www.revellgroup.com/Buck's%20Bio.html)