

IRS Sent up a White Flag of surrender on Z Street v Koskinen Case



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By Jerry Gordon

Last week, the Internal Revenue Service essentially ran up the white flag of surrender on the strange case of Z-Street, the pro-Israel group. It filed for a 501c3 tax exempt status in 2009 only to become embroiled in a seven year battle over viewpoint discrimination by the IRS in violation of the First Amendment. All because the Administration didn't agree with Z-Street views about Israel's ancient provenance of Judea and Samaria and the right to build settlements there.

As a member of board of Z-Street it consternating founder Lori Lowenthal Marcus and fellow members that the original application had been sent by the Cincinnati tax exempt clearance office to a 'special unit' in the IRS headquarters for processing only to be blocked on the specious grounds that Israel was a country where "terrorism" occurred. Duh! Z-Street and other conservative tax exempt filers like Tea Party groups had been similarly blocked because of their views. Z Street was aroused to file an original viewpoint discrimination case in the Philadelphia federal district court in 2010 subsequently referred to the Washington, DC district court where the IRS engaged in delaying tactics after the lower court granted discovery. An appeal in the matter of [Z Street v Koskinen](#) was brought by Z Street counsel Jerome Marcus, Esq. that resulted in a decision by the DC appellate circuit court in June 2015 clearing the way for discovery [the Internal Revenue Service scandal](#) broke and long after the media lost interest in the agency's practice of subjecting conservative groups to special scrutiny and delays, the government is quietly seeking to bury it. [have now been granted the designation they needed to begin fundraising](#). Among them was Z Street, a pro-Israel group whose tax exemption request dated back to 2010 [2009/LLM]. While the resolution seems to be satisfactory, the result is actually anything but. Rather than a belated triumph for justice, what has happened here is quite the opposite.

Though the Z Street litigation preceded the general outrage about the revelations about the IRS's discrimination broke in the spring of 2013,