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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 6, 2013

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### **Civil and Constitutional Rights Take a Back Seat to Bankruptcy**

**DETROIT** – United States Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes issued a ruling denying the Detroit Branch NAACP and the Michigan State Conference NAACP lawsuit challenge to Public Act 436 (PA 436). The Detroit Branch NAACP and the Michigan State Conference NAACP argued that PA 436 was unconstitutional and a violation of the Voting Rights Act. The NAACP disagrees with Judge Rhodes ruling on the lawsuit. The organization remains undeterred by this ruling and plans to appeal this decision. The fight will continue against this law that destroys democracy, puts dictators in charge and strips people of their constitutional rights. It shall not end today.

It is important to remember more than half of Michigan's African American voters have been stripped of the power of their votes to maintain their own publicly elected leaders. The NAACP continues to believe this case has nothing to do with bankruptcy proceedings. This is more than a Detroit issue it is a statewide issue. It appears as though the court has taken it upon itself to dive into strictly civil rights issues. The issue of moving a case to determine the eligibility of bankruptcy forward while negating the constitutional rights of the citizens backwards appears to reflect more of a judicial overreach than one of judicial objectivity. The NAACP believes that the right of the people to be heard should be upheld and most of all justice should be allowed to proceed without further delay.

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*The Detroit Branch NAACP is the largest NAACP branch in the Association. For more information please call 313-871-2087 or visit [www.detroitnaacp.org](http://www.detroitnaacp.org)*