



# NATIONAL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: November 5, 2018

## **NDAA Joins *Amicus* Brief in *Gamble v. United States* Case before the U.S. Supreme Court**

ARLINGTON, Virginia – The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) joined an *amicus* brief filed with the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Gamble v. United States*. The brief asks the Supreme Court not to overturn the separate-sovereigns exception to the Double Jeopardy Clause. This exception allows states and the federal government to convict and sentence a person for the same conduct.

Mr. Gamble was prosecuted for and convicted of possession of a firearm under both Alabama and United States law. His challenge asks the court to overturn the separate-sovereigns exception because it “flunks every test of constitutional interpretation.” The *amicus* brief argues that practical justifications support retaining the separate-sovereigns exception. Specifically, eliminating it would “unfairly impact state and local prosecutors, who would remain politically accountable for law enforcement outcomes, despite being stripped of the ability to address those problems locally.”

*Amici* and their members have an acute interest in ensuring that the long-entrenched separate-sovereigns exception remains intact. These organizations include a diverse group of state and local governments, active prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, and elected officials, each of whom relies on their individual state’s sovereign authority to enact criminal laws and to pursue criminal prosecutions that benefit the communities they serve. The separate-sovereigns exception promotes these efforts. NDAA joined the brief alongside the State & Local Legal Center, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the United States Conference of Mayors, the International City/County Management Association, the International Municipal Lawyers Association and the National Sheriffs’ Association.

*The National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), [www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org), is the largest prosecutor organization in the country, representing 2,500 elected and appointed District Attorneys across the United States, as well as 40,000 Assistant District Attorneys.*

**Contact:** Nelson Bunn, Executive Director, National District Attorneys Association (703) 519-1666

###