



## Alaska Governor, Maryland Attorney General Lead Exxon Valdez Victims Press Conference

Day Before Case Goes to Supreme Court

Tuesday February 26 10:00 AM National Press Club, 13th Floor, West Room

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25 /PRNewswire/ -- Alaska Governor Sarah Palin (R) and Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler will join victims of the Exxon Valdez oil spill and the principles of The Whole Truth Campaign, <http://www.wholetruth.net>, at a press conference Tuesday February 26 at 10:00 AM Eastern. The event will take place one day before oral arguments are scheduled to begin before the Supreme Court in the Fishermen and Native Subsistence lawsuit, Baker vs. Exxon. The suit, a class action composed of 32,677 commercial fishermen, related individuals and businesses, private landowners, Native Alaskans, municipalities, and other claimants from across the country, will conclude what amounts to a near 20-year effort by Exxon to shirk financial responsibility for its actions related to the spill. The press conference will be held at the National Press Club, 13th floor, West Room, on Tuesday February 26 at 10:00 AM Eastern.

Victims of the Exxon Valdez oil spill launched The Whole Truth Campaign this month in support of the over 32,000 fishermen, women and Alaska Natives suing Exxon to recover damages for economic harm caused by the spill. While there is no dispute that the Exxon Valdez oil spill is one of the nation's worst environmental disasters, Exxon has waged a shameless fight to escape responsibility. At issue in this case is the \$2.5 billion dollar punitive damage verdict, awarded by a jury to punish Exxon for its irresponsible corporate conduct and recklessness that caused the spill. Although this award breaks down to merely \$76,500 per individual plaintiff, Exxon argues that it should not be punished at all. On August 20, 2007 Exxon filed a writ of certiorari with the United States Supreme Court. On October 29, 2007 the Court agreed to hear the case. Oral arguments are set for February 27, 2008. The nineteenth anniversary of the spill is one month later, March 24.

On January 29, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin announced that the State of Alaska filed an amicus, or "friend of the court," brief supporting the award of punitive damages against Exxon. The next day, Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler announced that Maryland had taken the lead role in support of the plaintiffs. Thirty-three other states have signed on to Maryland's amicus brief.

WHAT: Exxon Valdez Victims Supreme Court Press Conference

WHEN: Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 10:00-11:00AM

**WHERE:** The National Press Club, 13th Floor, West Room - 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20045

**SPEAKERS:**

- Alaska Governor Sarah Palin
- Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler
- Jennifer Gibbins, Prince William Soundkeeper
- Travis Vlasoff, Native Village of Tatitlek
- Derek Blake, 4th Generation Prince William Sound Fisherman
- Steve Smith, Prince William Sound Fisherman
- Athan Manual, Sierra Club, Exxon Accountability Campaign Director

#### ABOUT THE WHOLE TRUTH

The Whole Truth Campaign is supported by leading Alaska advocacy organizations Prince William Soundkeeper and Cordova District Fishermen United. Native and commercial fishermen are available to speak to their direct personal experiences as victims of the fall-out of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Audio clips of statements from local fishermen, women and natives impacted by the spill are also available for b-roll purposes. To speak to them, their attorneys or for the latest statistical findings on the economic damage suffered by the people of Prince William Sound, contact Aric Caplan at 301-770-0550, [aric@caplancommunications.com](mailto:aric@caplancommunications.com), or go to <http://www.wholetruth.net>.

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SOURCE The Whole Truth Campaign

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- <http://www.wholetruth.net>

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