



**MORT MEISNER ASSOCIATES**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**WAYNE COUNTY VEHICLE FORFEITURE PROGRAM UNDER FIRE BY ATTORNEY  
BARTON W. MORRIS JR. AND THE INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE**

**FEDERAL LAWSUIT TO BE FILED ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5TH AT 11AM AT THE FEDERAL  
COURTHOUSE IN DETROIT, 231 WEST LAFAYETTE BLVD, DETROIT, MI 48226**

**ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN**—They have successfully argued 8 cases in front of the United States Supreme Court in order to stop illegal vehicle and property forfeiture throughout the United States. Now, The Institute for Justice, based in the state of Washington is joining hands with Barton W. Morris, founder and CEO of the Law Offices of Barton Morris in Royal Oak. Together the two firms are filing suit against Wayne County in a 48-page complaint to be filed in Federal Court.

Wayne County, just like many other Sheriffs and Police Departments throughout the United States, has been unreasonably seizing vehicles and other property, even in the face of no evidence that a crime has been committed. Simply put, people are losing their property often based solely of their proximity to other people's alleged crimes. For example, an individual leaves a house suspected of dealing drugs or some involvement in prostitution and become victims of this process.

Innocent property owners then find themselves in the crosshairs of the law with no good treason. Rarely are these people even arrested, let alone charged and convicted. They just lose what rightfully belongs to them. Once this happens, their only means to get their property back is to pay hefty fines and fees, which go to support huge budgets that law enforcement and prosecutors have.

This practice is unconstitutional and the courts in other states and our nation's highest courts agree. The authorities are incentivized to seize property without probable cause and any sort of due process.

The Institute for Justice is our nation's most libertarian public interest, non-profit law firm and is funded only by private donations. Barton Morris is one of the top criminal law minds in the state of Michigan and together, this team plans to put a stop to the recklessness of The Wayne County Sheriff's Department.

Barton Morris is available for advance interviews as well as at the News Conference this Wednesday, February 5th at the Federal Courthouse at 11am.

**MEDIA CONTACTS: MORT MEISNER ASSOCIATES,  
MORT MEISNER, 248-545-2222, MARK MEISNER, 248-808-8542 OR  
WENDY FAYNE, 248-842-3889**

