

SHARK (SHowing Animals Respect and Kindness)
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www.sharkonline.org

**The Ties that Bind:
Pennsylvania's Cruel Live Pigeon Shoots
and the District Attorney that Protects them.**

Showing Animals Respect and Kindness (SHARK) has been documenting animal cruelty at live pigeon shoots in Berks County, Pennsylvania, for more than two years. Our video-documentation has shown numerous and provable violations of Pennsylvania's anti-cruelty statute, yet Berks County District Attorney (DA) John Adams has not only refused to prosecute, he has used his power as DA to have citations that were legally filed by a Humane Police officer dismissed. He then ordered that Humane Officer never to file charges again.

DA Adams has gone further; when SHARK personnel have been violently attacked while documenting pigeon shoots, DA Adams has either done nothing or actually charged the victim. These incidents include:

- SHARK President Steve Hindi was whipped and given a bloody head wound by a pigeon shoot supporter wielding a metal dog leash. In a stunning move, Adams charged Hindi with simple assault. The charge was so outrageous that it was immediately dismissed on appeal.
- Hindi was intentionally hit by a car as it pulled into the Wing Pointe Commercial Hunting Grounds in Perry Township (where the pigeon shoots take place). Though this was an obvious direct assault and a hit-and-run incident, the driver was only charged with driving at an unsafe speed.
- Dangerous tire spikes were placed on public property outside of Wing Pointe, where SHARK personnel park their cars. One woman stepped on a spike. Had it not been that she was wearing hard heeled boots, the spike would have been driven into her foot. We also found spikes impaled in our tires. If we had not found them, they could easily have caused a blowout, an accident, even a fatal car crash. Though this was reported, DA Adams did nothing.

Why would a sitting District Attorney who has pledged to uphold the law take such a personal interest in protecting pigeon shoots and pigeon shooters? Why would a District Attorney use his power to not only ignore criminal acts, but to punish the victims of those acts?

These are serious questions, and we have taken to answering them with a thorough and considerate examination of DA Adam's campaign finance records, and his history with those who profit from pigeon shoots.

I. The Law Firms Representing Pigeon Shooters

There are two major law firms that represent pigeon shooting interests in Berks County: Kozloff Stoudt and Leisawitz Heller.

The firm of Leisawitz Heller represents Wing Pointe in at least two current cases. On 9/1/10 Leisawitz Heller donated \$700 to Adams.

From "Adams for DA" campaign finance report: 1/1/10 – 10/18/10.

Full Name of Contributor			MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
LEISAWITZ Heller			9	1	10	
Mailing Address			MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
2755 Century Blvd						
City	State	Zip Code (Plus 4)	MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
Wyomissing	PA	19610				
Employer Name			Occupation			

Note the year. Adams was not up for reelection in 2010. Donations made to DA Adams in 2010 are a critical to connecting him to pigeon shooting interests.

...

Kozloff Stoudt, through its Political Committee KDPF, has made donations in Berks County to both judges and DA Adams. Their influence is extremely important, especially as we see what the consequences have been.

David Kozloff, of Kozloff Stoudt, has become known as THE attorney for pigeon shooters, so much so that he was present at a pigeon shoot at Wing Pointe and on 10/23/12 he appeared in court to defend Wing Pointe against charges of animal cruelty.

KDPF PAC stands for Kozloff, Diener, Payne and Fegley. That was Kozloff's firm before the merger with the law firm of Rhoda, Stoudt & Bradley that created Kozloff Stoudt. Perhaps for ease, the KDPF name was kept when the firms merged. The money has flowed just as easily.

KDPF supported Adams when he ran for DA in 2008. From KDPF PAC campaign finance report: 1/1/08 – 9/15/08.

To Whom Paid			MO	DAY	YEAR	\$
ADAMS FOR DA						
Mailing Address						\$
20 ALPINE DRIVE			8	27	2008	
City	State	Zip Code (Plus 4)	Description of Expenditure			
MOHNTON	PA	19540	CONTRIBUTION			

They donated to him again in 2010.

From KDPF PAC campaign finance report: 1/1/10 – 10/18/10.

To Whom Paid ADAMS FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY			MO	DAY	YEAR	\$ 70.00
Mailing Address 20 ALPINE DRIVE			9	16	2010	
City MOHNTON	State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 19540	Description of Expenditure CONTRIBUTION			

To Whom Paid ADAMS FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY			MO	DAY	YEAR	\$ 70.00
Mailing Address 20 ALPINE DRIVE			9	15	2010	
City MOHNTON	State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 19540	Description of Expenditure CONTRIBUTION			

To Whom Paid ADAMS FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY			MO	DAY	YEAR	\$ 70.00
Mailing Address 20 ALPINE DRIVE			9	16	2010	
City MOHNTON	State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 19540	Description of Expenditure CONTRIBUTION			

Kozloff himself made a person donation to Adams, as is seen in this “Late Contribution Report” dated 5/3/11. It appears that it was important for Kozloff that not only his PAC be seen to donate money to Adams, but that he do so as well.

LATE CONTRIBUTIONS – 24 HOUR REPORT						
Name of Filing Committee or Candidate <i>ADAMS FOR DA</i>			Filer Identification Number <i>39-2057234</i>			
Full Name of Contributor <i>DAVID KOZLOFF</i>			DATE RECEIVED			
Mailing Address <i>2640 WESTVIEW DR</i>			MO <i>5</i>	DAY <i>3</i>	YEAR <i>11</i>	
City <i>WYOMISSING</i>	State <i>PA</i>	Zip Code (Plus 4) <i>19610</i>	Amount \$ <i>150.00</i>			

What’s also interesting about Kozloff’s personal donation is the address. 2640 Westview Drive is the location of Kozloff Stoudt <http://www.kozloffstoudt.com/contact.php>.

Someone must have realized that listing the law firm as the address of the donor would be problematic, so when the donation was recorded in the 5/3/11 – 6/6/11 campaign finance report, it was changed to what appears to be Kozloff’s home address.

Full Name of Contributor			MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
DAVID KOZLOFF			5	3	11	
Mailing Address			MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
1334 VAN STEFFY AVE						
City	State	Zip Code (Plus 4)	MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
Wyomissing	PA	19610 -				

As the "Late Contribution Report" was the first reporting of the donation, we can surmise that the point of the donation – that it was coming from Kozloff in his professional role as lawyer - was the message that was meant to be sent.

The ties Adams has to Kozloff Stoudt go beyond campaign donations: Adams used to work at the law firm of Rhoda, Stoudt & Bradley. Geoffrey M. Stoudt, his former boss, is the same man who formed Kozloff Stoudt.

<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/Dept/DA/Pages/DistrictAttorneyJohnTAdams.aspx>

• **This revelation means that Adams former employer now runs the firm that works for the pigeon shooters.**

Adams' First Assistant District Attorney, M. Theresa Johnson, not only worked for Adams at his firm (Distasio, Adams & Edwards) but she too worked for Rhoda, Stoudt & Bradley, and then after the merger, for Kozloff, Stoudt.

<http://readingeagle.com/articleprint.aspx?id=74726>

The incestuous nature of the office of District Attorney and its ties to a powerful law firm that gets paid by pigeon shooters is extremely disturbing.

II. The Flyers Victory Fund

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Flyers Association and their political arm, the Flyers Victory Fund, ("Flyers" is a euphemism for pigeons) is to protect pigeon shooters and keep pigeon shooting secure. There is no mistaking or questioning why they would donate to an elected official, especially one who has prosecutorial authority over the single largest pigeon shooting operation in the state – Wing Pointe. The Flyers Victory Fund has and continues to be a strong supporter of DA Adams. From the Flyers Victory Fund campaign finance report: 1/1/08 – 9/15/08.

To Whom Paid Adams for D.A.			MO	DAY	YEAR	\$ 500.00
Mailing Address 20 Alpine Dr			8	12	2008	
City Mohnton	State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 19540	Description of Expenditure donation			

Flyers Victory Fund campaign finance report: 1/1/09 – 9/14/09.

To Whom Paid Adams for DA			MO	DAY	YEAR	\$ 500.00
Mailing Address 20 Alpine Drive			8	13	2009	
City Mohnton	State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 19540	Description of Expenditure donation			

Flyers Victory Fund campaign finance report: 1/1/10 – 9/13/10.

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To Whom Paid Adams for DA			MO	DAY	YEAR	\$ 100.00
Mailing Address 20 Alpine Dr			8	31	2010	
City Mohnton	State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 19540	Description of Expenditure contribution			

Flyers Victory Fund campaign finance report: 1/1/11 – 5/2/11.

				DATE			AMOUNT	
To Whom Paid Adams for DA				MO	DAY	YEAR	\$ 150.00	
Mailing Address 20 Alpine Drive				4	5	2011		
City Mohnton		State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 19540		Description of Expenditure contribution			

III. The National Rifle Association

The National Rifle Association (NRA), like the Flyers Victory Fund, is a strong supporter of pigeon shooting in Pennsylvania. In a real sense, the NRA, due to the disproportionate power and fear they have over the legislature, bears perhaps the greatest responsibility for keeping pigeons alive and well.

The NRA Political Victory Fund made the following two donations to “Adams for DA.”

NRA Political Victory Fund campaign finance report: 1/1/10 – 3/29/10.

To Whom Paid Adams for District Attorney			MO	DAY	YEAR	\$ 250.00
Mailing Address 20 Alpine Drive			1	11	2010	
City Mohnton	State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 19540	Description of Expenditure Direct Contribution			

NRA Political Victory Fund campaign finance report: 1/1/10 – 10/18/10

To Whom Paid Adams for District Attorney			MO	DAY	YEAR	\$ 250.00
Mailing Address 20 Alpine Drive			9	21	2010	
City Mohnton	State PA	Zip Code (Plus 4) 19540	Description of Expenditure Direct Contribution			

Every donation that is made has a story, and the NRA’s donation on 1/1/10 says all we need to know about why a national organization decided to step in and support a county district attorney.

On 12/28/09, just 14 days before the NRA donation was recorded, DA Adams sent the following letter to District Justice Victor Fredrick, ordering that the animal cruelty citations filed by Pennsylvania Humane Society Police Officer Johnna Seeton were to be withdrawn. Note that David Kozloff was the attorney representing the pigeon shooters.



BERKS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

John T. Adams
District Attorney

633 COURT STREET
READING, PENNSYLVANIA 19601-4317
TELEPHONE: 610-478-6000
FAX: 610-478-6002

JAN 5 2010
COPY

M. Theresa Johnson
First Assistant
District Attorney

December 28, 2009

District Justice Victor Frederick, IV
26 Scholl Drive
P.O. Box 18
Oley, PA 19547

Re: Citation # P5878503-1, P5878501-6 & P5878502-0
Pike Township Sportsmen's Association

Dear Judge Frederick:

I am hereby notifying you that the above set forth citations are to be withdrawn. If you have any questions or concerns in regard to this matter, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

JOHN T. ADAMS
District Attorney
Berks County, Pennsylvania

JTA:js

cc: Gordon Einhorn, Esquire
David M. Kozloff, Esquire

DA Adams order was a stunning intervention and he made sure, personally, that no charges would be allowed against pigeon shooters. This was a direct show of power; he was sending a message that pigeon shooters had his protection.

Whether the NRA knew about this before it happened, or after, is not something we can say. What we do know is this:

- The NRA sent a check to Adams campaign account within two weeks of the decision.
- There was no election in 2010, so therefore no reason for them to send it other than the Adams decision on pigeon shoots.
- The NRA made no other donations to District Attorney candidates in 2010. The Adams account was the most local campaign they donated to, and that singles it out for special interest.

- Not only was the first NRA donation the only donation Adams received in January of 2010, but he would not receive another campaign donation until August, seven months later.

There is no other logical reason why the NRA would suddenly donate to a local DA other than he had just killed charges against a pigeon shoot, a cause the NRA holds dear. Whether this money was to be seen as a reward or as the courting of Adams, or both, we cannot tell.

It must be noted that DA Adams endorsement of David Freed to be Pennsylvania Attorney General in the 2012 election raises concern that Adams may be cultivating the NRA for his own political ambitions. Adams, a Democrat, made the controversial endorsement of Republican David Freed in October of 2012.

<http://davidfreedforag.com/berks-county-democrat-john-adams-endorses-dave/>

The NRA strongly supported Freed, including donating \$1,000 to him, and the NRA's Chief Lobbyist, Chris Cox, got involved and issued the Freed endorsement in this press release: <http://www.nrapvf.org/news-alerts/2012/09/nra-pvf-endorses-david-freed-for-attorney-general-in-pennsylvania.aspx>

In light of the NRA's support, Adams' cross party endorsement certainly seems unusual, at best. At worst, Adams violated his office to gain the influence of a powerful political machine that might help him with his own political ambitions in the future.

IV. 2010

As we've noted previously, the year 2010 holds critical importance to the issue of DA Adams and pigeon shooting interests. Why was 2010 so important?

It was late in 2009 that SHARK began the renewed effort to document and stop pigeon shoots in Pennsylvania. After years of little or no attention, pigeon shoots were put back in the spotlight. Suddenly, pigeon shooters needed protection. They got it.

This page from the "Adams for DA" year 2010 filing (1/1/10-12/31/10), regarding "Contributions Received From Political Committees" tells us just how important 2010 was.

- Every donation made to DA Adams by a political committee in 2010 came from a pro-pigeon shoot interest.

PART A								
CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM POLITICAL COMMITTEES								
\$50.01 TO \$250.00								
Use this Part to itemize only contributions received from political committees with an aggregate value from \$50.01 to \$250.00 in the reporting period.								
Name of Filing Committee or Candidate <u>ADAMS FOR DA</u>					Reporting Period From <u>1/1/10</u> To <u>12/31/10</u>			
					DATE		AMOUNT	
Full Name of Contributing Committee <u>NRA POLITICAL VICTORY FUND</u>					MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$ <u>250.00</u> ✓
Mailing Address <u>11250 WAPPLES MILL RD</u>					MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$ <u>250.00</u> ✓
City <u>FAIRFAX</u>	State <u>VA</u>	Zip Code (Plus 4) <u>22030</u>			MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
Full Name of Contributing Committee <u>FLYERS VICTORY FUND</u>					MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$ <u>100.00</u> ✓
Mailing Address <u>6622 DAMATS PEAK RD</u>					MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
City <u>NEW TRIPOLE</u>	State <u>PA</u>	Zip Code (Plus 4) <u>18066</u>			MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
Full Name of Contributing Committee <u>KDPF PAC</u>					MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$ <u>140.00</u> ✓
Mailing Address <u>2640 Westview DR</u>					MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
City <u>WYOMISSING</u>	State <u>PA</u>	Zip Code (Plus 4) <u>19610</u>			MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
Full Name of Contributing Committee					MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
Mailing Address					MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$
City	State	Zip Code (Plus 4)			MO.	DAY	YEAR	\$

Kozloff's FDPF PAC and the Flyers Victory Fund. The NRA donated twice. In addition, and as previously noted, Leisawitz Heller donated \$700 in 2010. No other political

committee dealing with any other issue felt a need to donate that year. Once the heat got turned up against pigeon shoots, however, all these firms and organizations who have a fiscal and ideological desire to keep pigeon shoots free from prosecution made sure they donated to DA Adams in a year he wasn't even running for reelection.

We believe that the evidence of influence peddling and abuse of authority are clear and overwhelming. DA Adams must be held accountable for his actions.