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Contact: C. Michael Bright

202-512-1991

cbright@gpo.gov

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GPO SERVERS PROVIDE PUBLIC ACCESS TO SUPREME COURT OPINION IN FLORIDA ELECTION CASE

The U.S. Government Printing Office is providing the servers and bandwidth to cope with vast public demand for access to the online version of the U.S. Supreme Court's opinion in the case of *George W. Bush, Petitioner v. Palm Beach County Canvassing Board, et. al.* (No. 00-836, December 4, 2000). GPO hosts the Supreme Court website (at www.supremecourtus.gov) and prepared in advance for the heavy demand by increasing the number of servers containing the Court's website and utilizing load-balancing equipment to assure that all servers were used as efficiently as possible. At the time of the release at 11:55 a.m., on Monday, December 4, GPO had dedicated 14 servers to the Court's Web site.

In anticipation of the Supreme Court's decision, traffic on the Court's Web site began to increase almost as soon as the Florida Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Palm Beach County Canvassing Board v. Harris* on November 21. In the days leading up to the release of the December 4 opinion, the U.S. Supreme Court posted a collection of 43 petitions, briefs, and oral arguments related to the case on its Web site. In the thirteen-day period between November 21 and December 5, the Court's website received 4,346,687 page views, approximately double the normal volume for a two-week period.

GPO provided web site development services for the U.S. Supreme Court site prior to its release in April 2000. Although it has its own web address, the Supreme Court site is part of the **GPO Access** system (at www.gpo.gov/gpoaccess) and is hosted on GPO servers. GPO provides round-the-clock web maintenance service for the Supreme Court site.

GPO Access, GPO's own Web site, is one of the few Government sites established by law and one of the longest running, beginning operation in 1994. It is virtually the only Government web site that provides easy, one-stop, no-fee access to information from all three branches of the Federal Government. Today, it provides access to nearly 200,000 Government information titles on GPO and other Federal agency servers. Monthly document retrievals today average more than 26 million. In addition, **GPO Access** provides Web site development and hosting services to 16 agencies of the

Federal Government, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

(Self-Mailer)



Page #public-affairs/news/00news25.html December 11, 2000