



Brother & Sisters

Today (November 9, 2015), the Sacramento Superior Court entered final judgment on the National Grange's claims in the state court lawsuit. That judgment mirrors the Court's order granting summary judgment to the National Grange. In particular, the following three rulings were made and entered as final:

- 1) The McFarland Group (or "Now Unchartered State Grange," as the Court termed it) "has no standing to retain any real and personal property belonging to the Grange."
- 2) The California State Grange (or "Newly Chartered State Grange," as the Court termed it) "is the only Grange entity entitled to use and control Grange property in California."
- 3) The McFarland Group "has the obligation to transfer to the Newly Chartered State Grange all Grange property in its possession or control as of the date its Charter was revoked."

This final judgment represents complete victory on the National Grange's claims in the trial court. Simply put, the Court has spoken, and ruled that the McFarland Group is not a Grange and has no right to hold Grange property. Those issues have been fully resolved at the trial level, and will not be addressed again by the Sacramento court. (Likewise, final judgment in the trademark case has also been entered, and holds that the McFarland Group may not

call itself a Grange or use the “Grange” trademarks; that decision, too, has been fully resolved at the trial level.) In addition to the above rulings, the National Grange also asked the Court to clarify what “all Grange property” means so that further litigation might be avoided. However, because the McFarland Group has refused to produce information about the property it holds in discovery, the Court concluded that it could not grant the additional relief the National Grange sought as a procedural matter. Mr. McFarland, in keeping with his threat to drag this litigation out as long as possible, no doubt intends to continue wasting Grange funds on his pointless appeals, and on further needless litigation to identify and protect the Grange property at issue. The substantive merits of control of that Grange property pending appeal still remains to be addressed. Please rest assured that we are exploring the appropriate steps to take to make sure that the Grange property subject to the final judgment is preserved so that there will be something to return to the Grange when Mr. McFarland’s appeal is denied. Of course, I will share those actions with you as they develop.

Ed Komski, President
California State Grange, established 1872

