

Dear Friends,

On Barnes Day, one of the speakers will be Chester County attorney **Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire**. Sam is a leading authority on Pennsylvania legal and judicial ethics, who will take this occasion to speak about the deeply disturbing ethical issues in the Barnes case. We don't know exactly what Sam will say, but are reminded of the mountains of ethical issues littering this landscape:

- Powerful philanthropic leaders (Pew's Rebecca Rimel, H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest, the late Leonore Annenberg) working in concert with Barnes Board Chairman Bernard Watson (former President of the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority) to overpower the clear intentions of Dr. Albert C. Barnes, in the process destroying the bequest he left to the world;
- Former Pennsylvania Attorneys General (Mike Fisher and others) who have a duty to act as *parens patriae* of the Barnes trust, but who instead cleared legal obstacles for it to be dismantled;
- Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell has misled the public about the financial sustainability of the Barnes in Merion and betrayed the taxpayers of Pennsylvania with a double burden: by pushing for destruction of a valuable and irreplaceable cultural asset and wasting massive amounts of taxpayer money for construction of an inferior replica. Pennsylvanians should note that just weeks ago State Treasurer McCord approved a \$650 million bond that includes **\$34 million to be BORROWED** toward construction of a fake Barnes.
- The Barnes Board of "Trustees" (including Aileen Roberts of Comcast, Joe Neubauer of Aramark, Neil Rudenstine of ARTstor, Shelly Bonovitz, Esq. of Duane Morris, and Steve Harmelin, Esq. of Dillworth Paxson, and others) are in place solely to move the Barnes art collection to a tourism-oriented venue in Philadelphia in clear violation of the intentions of Dr. Barnes. In the process, they are putting The Barnes into a far more financially precarious situation than it has ever been and ever would be. The Board has never been confronted by the fact that their actions would destroy forever the site's eligibility for National Historic Landmark status and listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

It's a picture of powerful people in a big-city power-grab using the legal system and the media for a colossal, destructive rip-off. They were counting on having this glorious collection become a cash cow, or, as Rebecca Rimel of Pew called it, a tourism "product" for Philadelphia. This shows no regard to the real value of The Barnes in Merion as an internationally important historic and cultural site. They apparently thought no one would notice this destruction, but they were wrong. Every day, exposure of it and opposition to this outrage grows. On Barnes Day we will make clear that we stand firm in our effort to stop it. Now, we also look forward to hearing what Sam Stretton has to say about it.

**This news just in: Daylin Leach, State Senator for the 17<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District** will join us on Barnes Day, too. We look forward to hearing from Senator Leach about what can be done in Harrisburg to prevent public funding from being spent to destroy an irreplaceable Pennsylvania treasure.

With kind regards,

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