

# **FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FRIENDS OF THE BARNES FOUNDATION’S ATTORNEY TO CHALLENGE FINANCIAL SANCTIONS**

MERION STATION, PA, U.S.A. – Jan. 25, 2012) **Friends of the Barnes Foundation** will return to Montgomery County Orphans’ Court for a Hearing before Judge Stanley Ott on financial Sanctions against the citizens group sought by the **Barnes Foundation**. The hearing is scheduled for **Thursday, February 2 at 9:30 a.m.** The Friends will be represented by **Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire**, who filed the Friends’ **Petition** in February 2011. The Friends’ Petition brought to the Court’s attention new evidence from the documentary “**The Art of the Steal**” showing that former Pennsylvania Attorney General Mike Fisher appeared to have acted improperly in the case and had a conflict not revealed in earlier Court hearings. Mr. Stretton showed that the conflict on the part of the Attorney General made it impossible for the Office to adequately represent the public interest, a scenario that would permit a third party to be granted legal standing under the **Private Attorney General Theory**.

Mr. Stretton filed **Objections to the Sanctions** with the Court showing that there is no legal basis for Sanctions against his clients and stating that the fees and expenses of over \$63,000 billed by the Barnes’ attorneys are “extraordinarily excessive.”

Friends of the Barnes Foundation is an organization of citizen advocates working for permanent preservation of the Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania as an intact, integrated cultural site bequeathed by Dr. Albert C. Barnes. For more information, visit the group’s website at [www.barnesfriends.org](http://www.barnesfriends.org)

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