

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

Post Office Box 35, Merion Station, Pennsylvania 19066

e-mail: barnesfriends@comcast.net; www.barnesfriends.org; 610-667-0281

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

For information: Nancy Herman 610-667-0281 or barnesfriends@comcast.net
Evelyn Yaari 610-664-2086; **610-864-6483** (cell) or
eyaari@comcast.net

BARNES FOUNDATION MATTER RETURNS TO JUDGE OTT'S COURTROOM TODAY

(NORRISTOWN, Pennsylvania, USA—March 29, 2011) Attorney Samuel C. Stretton, Esq. and the petitioners he represents from Friends of the Barnes Foundation and Barnes Watch will be in Judge Ott's Courtroom in Montgomery County Orphans' Court today. The citizen advocates petitioned Judge Ott on February 17, asking him to reopen proceedings on the matter of the Barnes Foundation and its change in governance and the plan to transfer its art collection to Philadelphia. Today's proceeding is in response to Judge Ott's February 22, 2011 Rule to Show Cause Order sent to the Barnes Foundation and the Pennsylvania Attorney General to "show cause why the (Barnes) matter should not be reopened." Immediately following events in Court, Attorney Samuel C. Stretton will hold a press conference.

The petition filed by Mr. Stretton asks the Court to reopen the Barnes matter and grant standing to the Friends, stating that that Court was misled about a) improper activities of then-Pennsylvania Attorney General Mike Fisher and b) about the lack of financial support for the Barnes Foundation. It cites as new information statements made in the documentary "The Art of the Steal" by then-Attorney General Michael

Fisher. The film includes Mr. Fisher recounting threatening statements s he made to Lincoln University, who at the time controlled nominations to a majority of seats on the Barnes Board of Trustees. The Attorney General's threatening stance toward Lincoln reportedly occurred during negotiations that resulted in Lincoln University dropping its own petition opposing the change in governance of the Barnes Foundation. With their petition, the Friends bring the new evidence of misconduct to the attention of the Court and raise the possibility of the Court granting them legal standing under the Private Attorney General Theory.

One of the petitioners, Philadelphia artist Barbara B. Rosin said, "The fate of an international cultural treasure like the Barnes Foundation shouldn't hang on backroom deals and threats by the powerful. Fortunately, we live in a country where the law provides an opportunity to set things right."

The petition, exhibits, the Preliminary Decree of Judge Ott, and the Preliminary Objections of the Pennsylvania Attorney General and the Barnes Foundation are available on the website of Friends of the Barnes Foundation at

http://barnesfriends.org/files/legal_matters.html

Attorney for Friends of the Barnes Foundation, Samuel C. Stretton, can be reached through his West Chester, Pennsylvania office at 610-696-4243.

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