

# FRIENDS OF THE BARNES FOUNDATION

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Barnes Foundation Back to Judge Ott's Court**

### **Friends of the Barnes Petition: "This Court has been misled"**

**DATE:** Monday, August 1, 2011

**TIME:** 12:30 pm

**LOCATION:** Montgomery County Courthouse, Norristown

**EVENT:** Members of Friends of the Barnes Foundation will gather on Courthouse steps near the Swede Street entrance starting at noon

Samuel C. Stretton, Esquire to show Judge Ott in Oral Arguments why it is necessary to re-open hearings on the Barnes Foundation matter.

Mr. Stretton will hold a press conference immediately after the Court event.

**DETAILS:** On February 17, 2011, **Samuel C. Stretton, Esq.** filed a petition in Montgomery County Orphans' Court seeking to re-open proceedings on the matter of the Barnes Foundation and its change in governance and the plan to transfer its art collection to Philadelphia. The petitioners are the citizen advocate groups **Friends of the Barnes Foundation**, **BarnesWatch**, and individual members long involved in efforts to stop the plan to dismantle the world-renowned Barnes Foundation complex in Lower Merion.

The petition cites newly available indications of serious professional misconduct on the part of **then-Attorney General Michael Fisher** that neutralized his role as *parens patriae* for the Barnes Foundation, a charitable entity. The petition maintains that had the Court known of the actions by the Attorney General, standing for the petitioners could have been established under a private Attorney General theory.

The Petition, Exhibits, 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://www.barnesfriends.org/files/legal\\_matters.html](http://www.barnesfriends.org/files/legal_matters.html)

Mr. Stretton can be reached through his West Chester, Pennsylvania office at **610-696-4243**.

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