

VERITAS VINCIT



Veritas Vincit

Fall 2010

PARK51

By Sarah Spacht, SLS research intern

There has been a significant amount of controversy surrounding the development plans for a mosque and Muslim community center a few blocks away from Ground Zero, the former site of New York City's World Trade Center. Located at 45-51 Park Place, the project is being called "Park51." Those involved with project planning aim to create a space that can be used as a community center rather than

solely as a mosque. The proposed building will have an interfaith "prayer space" component called "Cordoba House," inspired by the peaceful coexistence between Muslims, Christians, and Jews centuries ago in Cordoba, Spain, as well as by the project's roots in the Cordoba Initiative, an Islamic social justice and community programming



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group.

Those opposing the project argue that the building of an Islamic place of worship so close to Ground Zero is inappropriate and provocative and should be forbidden. Many politicians, members of the public, and heads of local churches and synagogues argue that the building of a mosque would be extremely insensitive to Americans whose lives were lost and otherwise deeply impacted by the events of September 11,

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Discover the Law is back in Winter 2011!

Sign-up packets for the Winter 2011 Quarter award-winning Discover the Law program will be available for pick up starting December 8 at the SLS office.

See page 3 for more information!

MENTORING FOR PRE-LAW STUDENTS

Interested in becoming a lawyer?

Questions about law school or the legal profession?

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Student Legal Services offers mentoring opportunities for students who want to learn more about the pursuing a career in law. Our attorneys are happy to meet with you to answer your questions about law school and the legal profession as well as give you valuable insight into what to expect from a career in law. We also collaborate with the Career Services Center to offer workshops about preparing for law school. To schedule an appointment, or if have you any questions about pre-law mentoring, call us at (858)534-4374!

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2001. Advocates for the building, however, argue that they too have been greatly impacted by 9/11 as Americans and particularly as residents of New York City. They hope that the center will lead to greater awareness and a positive change in American views about Islam. Nihad Awad, executive director of The Council on American-Islamic Relations, states, "Ground Zero belongs to all Americans, and we all share the grief, we all share the healing."

Proponents of the project defend the building by citing to the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), ratified by Congress in July 2000, which states, "No government shall impose or implement a land use regulation that discriminates against any assembly or institution on the basis of religion or religious denomination." They assert that compliance with zoning laws should be the sole requirement for development of the building, especially on a project that they hope

will serve the public, promote understanding, and provide opportunity for personal and community growth and freedom from religious persecution. Zoning laws aside, however, the development is extremely controversial, and many people argue that the development of the project should be restricted out of general sensitivity to those who lost loved ones in the World Trade Center bombings.

Though the proposed project has been faced with tremendous opposition, it is gaining a significant amount of support from local, state, and national groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the New York Civil Liberties Union. A series of bus advertisements throughout New York City (paid for by the ACLU the NYCLU) depict three images of the proposed design for the Islamic center, each with a different religious image on the front of the building—one with a Christian cross, one with the Jewish Star of David, and one with the Muslim crescent. The

advertisement reads: "Would there even be a controversy if this weren't a mosque? In America, religious freedom knows no boundaries." In their joint statement, the NYCLU and ACLU state, "The American Civil Liberties Union has defended the right of all religious denominations—from majority faiths to marginalized religions—to establish places of worship, and for Americans to pray, or not, as they choose. We will continue that fight now. Preventing Muslims or any other group from freely practicing their faith is unconstitutional and goes against the very core of American freedom."

The Park51 project raises questions not only about the extent of the law in protecting the right of religious assembly, but also about to what extent public opinion should be considered in community planning. Should Park51 continue as planned or should public opposition to the proposed building be determinative? Is the construction of Park51 protected

DID YOU KNOW???

- According to a University of Maryland study, 1 in 5 college students admit to driving drunk.
- One in 29 college students has a criminal record, according to "Mybackgroundcheck.com."
- A 2006 report found that about 46.9% of college students surveyed reported that they had used marijuana.
- Anyone who sells, furnishes, or gives alcohol to a person under age 21 is guilty of a misdemeanor in California.
- **DID YOU KNOW that if you have found yourself in trouble with the law, you can seek free, confidential counseling from an attorney right here on campus? All currently-registered UCSD students are eligible to make an appointment with Student Legal Services! Call us today!**

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by the U.S. Constitution or Federal law? How important is it that the Park51 project be developed so close to Ground Zero? Would constructing the project close to Ground Zero help to break down prejudices against Islam and promote religious equality, or would the perception of its location as "insensitive" preclude any healing the center might hope to create? It appears as though some of these questions will be answered soon enough. Nevertheless, there will also be lasting effects of the project's development for many years to come.



DISCOVER THE LAW – WINTER 2011

By Toni Sarge and Sara Nickpay, SLS marketing interns

For the consecutive third year, Student Legal Services will be running the Discover the Law program, beginning week two of the 2010 Winter Quarter! The program is great for students interested in learning more about legal issues in their everyday life, as well as those considering law school or a career in law.

Discover the Law is a flexible program with multiple program dates and diverse presentations throughout the Winter Quarter, *designed to make it easy to earn a certificate of achievement that will look great on a resume!* This Winter Quarter, Discover the

Law will feature attorneys, judges, and other speakers from a variety of organizations. Participants will be exposed to a broad range of legal issues while simultaneously having plenty of chances to meet professionals and other students interested in law-related topics.



Don't miss out on this great program and the opportunities it can offer you!

Call or email us, stop by our office, or check out our website or Facebook page for details on how to sign up!

SLS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!

By Jon Carlos Senour, SLS Director

Student Legal Services is proud to announce the appointment of our new **Assistant Director, Paula Gluzman!** Paula is an alumna of UC San Diego who graduated in 2005 with a B.A. in Human Development and Minor in Teacher Education from Thurgood Marshall College. Her proudest accomplishment as an undergraduate was founding the "Kiss the Pig" campaign in conjunction with UCSD Cares, which raised funds for the American Diabetes Association. Paula also interned in

Washington, D.C., through the UCDC Program, and studied abroad in Seville, Spain.

Paula attended law school at Pacific-McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California, where she obtained her J.D. in 2008.

After being admitted to the California Bar in 2008, Paula practiced in various areas of civil litigation as an Associate Attorney at Randolph Cregger & Chalfant in Sacramento.

Please join us in welcoming Paula

back to UC San Diego!

We are also very pleased to have our **Legal Research Intern Sarah Spacht** and **Marketing Interns Sara Nickpay and Toni Sarge** on board this academic year!

SLS is happy to have all of you as part of the team!

UC SAN DIEGO
STUDENT LEGAL
SERVICES

Student Services Center
Fifth Floor, Suite 527
Phone: (858) 534-4374
E-mail: sls@ucsd.edu
Online: <http://sls.ucsd.edu>

SLS is committed to empowering students with counseling and education on legal topics.



*Thanks to those of you who took part in the *A* Program this Fall Quarter! We hope that we will see you again next Fall! Meanwhile, sign up for our Discover the Law program, happening Winter Quarter 2011! Also, make sure to check out our Facebook page for upcoming events!*

UC SAN DIEGO'S NEW POLICY ON FREE SPEECH

By Sarah Spacht, SLS research intern

UC San Diego recently adopted changes to its Policy on Free Speech, Advocacy, and Distribution of Literature on University Grounds (also known as PPM-510.) While the content of speech is generally not (and by law cannot be) restricted, the new policy does clarify when, where, and how speech will be allowed across the UCSD campus. The biggest change to the policy compared to previous versions is with regard to the times and places designated for non-electronic (e.g., megaphone) and electronic (e.g., bullhorn) amplified sound. The University has set designated times during which the use of amplified sound is permissible, and for the majority of the campus, this time is between 11:30am-1:30pm. The



designated times are different for specific areas of Warren College, but amplified noise is still permitted at all times at the Student Center Hump, Price Center Plaza, and on Library Walk (Dentils 1967-1993), provided that it is within the permitted decibel range, which is also clarified in the policy. The policy also states that, if possible, university officials must now warn those who are in violation of the policy *before* issuing university sanctions, thereby giving them a chance to modify their actions, an opportunity which was not specifically granted under the previous policy.

The full text of the new policy can be found online at: <http://adminrecords.ucsd.edu/ppm/docs/510-1.9.pdf>

SLS is on Facebook!

Find us at the UC San Diego Student
Legal Services Page!