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2014 NEWS

COURT DENIES CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG'S MOTION TO DISMISS FIRST AMENDMENT LAWSUIT

In an order issued July 10, 2014, U.S. District Court Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich denied the City of St. Petersburg's Motion to Dismiss a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the City's trespass ordinance. SLC, on behalf of Rev. Bruce Wright, filed the federal lawsuit in October 2013, after the City banned him for one year from Williams Park where he frequently advocated for homeless individuals and protested City policies. Rev. Wright, an ordained minister and longtime homeless advocate, alleges that the trespass warning prevents him from exercising his First Amendment rights in that park. The Court agreed that the facts that the Rev. Wright states in the complaint that his First Amendment rights were infringed by the trespass warning are a sufficient basis to state a claim for relief. To read the order, [click here](#). Posted July 15, 2014.

SLC FILES SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT IN SUIT SEEKING HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION IN FLORIDA

SLC filed a Second Amended Complaint against the state of Florida in its suit seeking a declaratory judgment from the court that the state has failed to meet its constitutional obligations to provide students with a uniform, efficient and high quality public school education. The Second Amended Complaint adds allegations challenging the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program (FTCSP), a public program created in 2001 funded through business tax credits to provide tuition vouchers for eligible K-12 students to attend non-public schools. Additionally, SLC is challenging the adequacy of Florida's pre-Kindergarten program and alleges that the State has not provided a high quality pre-kindergarten learning opportunity or delivered an early childhood development and education program according to professionally accepted standards, as required by the Florida Constitution. Posted: May 30, 2014

ADENA SPRINGS UPDATE

Adena Springs Ranch has a new name: Sleepy Creek Lands LLC. The project has been divided into three phases. They have hired new attorneys. Permits necessary for Phase I have been obtained or are pending issuance by the St. Johns River Water Management District to support the final feeding and fattening of as many as 9,500 head of cattle before processing at the nearby slaughter house. If approved, Phase I will add an estimated 771 tons a year of manure, urine, and fertilizer to the Silver Springs springshed in the

Ocklawaha Basin. A lawsuit challenging the issuance of these permits was filed on June 2, 2014 by concerned citizens Karen Ahlers and Jeri Baldwin who are fighting for the quality and quantity of fresh water in the Ocklawaha Basin and Silver Springs springshed. We must be prepared to respond to additional permit requests for Phases II and III and need your help. Hundreds of contributions from concerned private citizens, allied organizations, and the Felburn Foundation have funded this fight thus far. Help us continue to stand tall in our efforts to protect Florida's water resources. Please donate today to the Water Protection Fund. More information about the Sleepy Creek Lands project can be found on the SJRWMD's website: <http://www.sjrwmd.com/facts/AdenaSpringsRanchCUP.html>

You can donate to the Water Protection Fund by clicking this link: WATER PROTECTION FUND. If you would like to donate to the SLC General Use Fund, please click the Donate Now button at the top of this page. You can also click on the Support Our Work tab to see other ways to support SLC. Posted July 2014.

SLC RECOGNIZED FOR ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

SLC learned it will be awarded The Florida Bar Foundation's Stephen M. Goldstein Award for Excellence in June 2014. The award recognizes a significant project undertaken by a Florida Bar Foundation Legal Assistance for the Poor grantee. SLC won for its work on *Moreland v. Palmer* (N.D. Fla.), which achieved a mediated settlement on behalf of 9,000 persons with developmental disabilities whose Medicaid Waiver iBudgets were reduced by the Florida Agency for Persons With Disabilities. APD agreed to provide notices that detail the reasons for reductions, and to provide the notice to guardians and other representatives and in the client's primary language. SLC attorneys worked with private pro bono attorney Nancy Wright. Stephen M. Goldstein was respected for his advocacy of the poor and disadvantaged. Through cases like *Moreland v. Palmer*, the attorneys at SLC are continuing Steve's dedication to improving the quality of life for those who otherwise would have no voice in the law. Posted March 2014.