



NEWS RELEASE

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PLF LAWYER'S NEW BOOK CONDEMNS EMINENT DOMAIN ABUSES

“Cornerstone” Hits Issues That Could Dominate 2006 California Election

Sacramento, CA; July 18, 2006: Eminent domain abuse remains a pervasive evil throughout California, according to a new book on eminent domain and other property rights issues by Pacific Legal Foundation attorney, Timothy Sandefur. Published by the prestigious Cato Institute, *Cornerstone of Liberty* focuses on many of PLF's most important cases to detail how property rights are the key to human freedom—and how they are threatened by overzealous government regulators in the Golden State and beyond.

Sandefur's book is particularly timely, because debate about property rights will be stimulated by an initiative on California's November ballot that addresses the use of eminent domain.

“Ever since *Kelo v. New London*, Americans have been demanding greater protection for their fundamental property rights,” says Sandefur, who wrote PLF's briefs in *Kelo* and other important eminent domain cases. *Cornerstone* describes in detail how government seizes land and transfers it to private developers for their own use—such as the California case in which a city tried to take a church's land away to give to Costco, and the case of Ahmad Mesdaq, whose San Diego cigar shop was seized to make way for a luxury hotel.

“I wanted to tell some stories of regular Americans whose property rights are being violated every day by government officials,” says Sandefur. “Some of these stories, like Mesdaq's, haven't really been told before.”

“The city told Mesdaq that they needed his land because without it, the hotel would have 100 fewer rooms than if they built next to his shop,” Sandefur explains. “As if that's a good reason to deprive a man of his American dream!”

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Sandefur also moderates "PLF on Eminent Domain," www.eminentdomain.typepad.com, a blog that serves as a repository of information and commentary on condemnation cases throughout California and around the country. "The purpose of this blog is to be the definitive resource on eminent domain issues for media and the general public," said Sandefur.

Cornerstone of Liberty is available for purchase on the Cato Institute's website www.catostore.org, and will be available from www.amazon.com and bookstores this fall.

About Pacific Legal Foundation

Headquartered in Sacramento, Pacific Legal Foundation is the oldest and largest legal organization dedicated to property rights and limited government.

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