

## **Plaintiffs in Belward Farm Lawsuit Announce Intentions to Petition Maryland's Highest Court in Continued Effort to Preserve Land and Donor's Intent**

**Rockville, MD** -- Tim Newell, lead plaintiff in the donor intent lawsuit *John Timothy Newell v. Johns Hopkins University*, announced today that his family will take their legal efforts to force Johns Hopkins University to honor its commitment promise to build a bucolic academic campus on Montgomery County's Belward Farm to the Maryland Court of Appeals, the state's highest court.

The Court of Special Appeals earlier today ruled in Johns Hopkins' favor, reaffirming a Nov. 2012 Circuit Court ruling granting Summary Judgment to the university. The plaintiffs will file a "petition for writ of certiorari," which will ask the high court to review the lower court's decision.

In response to the Court of Special Appeals ruling, lead plaintiff Tim Newell said:

"Once again, the Courts have made a ruling in this case as if it is solely a matter of basic Contract law.

"This case is not about a Contract. This case is about the misuse of a generous charitable gift made by my aunt, a woman of modest means, to one of the nation's wealthiest universities.

"Belward Farm was my aunt's only real asset. It was her legacy. And as the Court of Special Appeals judges admit in the very first page of their judgment, my Aunt 'was renowned, even revered, for her opposition to development in Montgomery County' and 'undoubtedly had a vision of how The Johns Hopkins University could, and would, steward her beloved family land.'

"That vision was the creation of a bucolic suburban campus that preserved the land, as she articulated numerous times. The university agreed to those conditions.

"She never would have gifted Belward Farm to Hopkins if she felt the university would have carte blanche to do anything it wanted with the property, especially create a commercial mega-development of nearly five million square feet.

"The university's horrible breach of 'donor intent' and the Court's failure to hold it accountable for that breach is sure to send a chilling signal to all charitable donors in Maryland and throughout the nation that nonprofits can accept a gift for a specific purpose, and then thumb their nose at the donor and use it for another.

"We look forward to the Maryland Court of Appeals agreeing to hear our case and settling this matter in a way that protects donor intent once and for all."

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A copy of the Court of Special Appeals decision is available in PDF format by request via email at [Jennifer@PRoactiveSolutionsInc.net](mailto:Jennifer@PRoactiveSolutionsInc.net) or by phone at (828) 687-2633.