

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT,
CHANCERY DIVISION**

**PENELOPE BAIM BLOCK, BRIJ M.
SHARMA, CHARANJIT SINGH,
LISA M. BERTINI, VANDANA
MAKKER, BALA M. KRISHNA,
TY C. GERHARDT, and JEFFREY
ZIMMERMAN, et al.,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

McDONALD'S CORPORATION,

Defendant.

01 CH 9137

Judge Richard Siebel

CLASS ACTION

**DECLARATION OF RHODA MYRA
SAPON IN OPPOSITION TO THE
RECOMMENDED ALLOCATION OF
COMMUNITY PRES FUNDS TO THE
VEGETARIAN RESOURCE GROUP**

I, RHODA MYRA SAPON, declare the following to be true:

I am a resident of the County of Monroe, New York, and have been vegetarian since 1976, and a Vegan since 1979. I am a member of the class in the above-captioned action against McDonald's because I consumed McDonald's French fries during the 1990s in reliance on McDonald's assurances that their French fries were vegetarian.

In 1990 I co-founded, and for ten years served as co-coordinator of, the Rochester Area Vegetarian Society in Rochester, New York., a non-profit, tax-exempt, non-sectarian educational organization dedicated to promoting the joy, compassion and life enhancing possibility of a vegetarian life-style.

In 1996, I co-founded and continue to co-direct the Maimonides Project, a non-profit resource center for local hunger relief action. This project represents a convergence of philosophical, ethical and practical concerns for more effective steps that individuals and small groups can take to ease the suffering of hungry people in their communities, and to empower people by teaching them how

to make the most of their food dollars. We provide guidance, materials, instruction and support to individuals and groups all over the country who request it.

The Project was inspired by Moses Maimonides, the revered 12th century physician, scholar, philosopher and Rabbi, who explored in depth the spiritual, ethical and philosophical dimensions of charity. His principles are reflected in the plant-based foods that are cruelty-free (i.e. no dairy or animal products) which are distributed through food pantries, churches, synagogues, mosques and other dignity-respecting agencies.

I have been a member of the Board of Trustees of the North American Vegetarian Society since 1998.

I am on the Advisory Board of VegNews, part of the Vegetarian News Network, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to furthering the ethical vegetarian movement through unity while promoting plant-based and compassionate goods and services.

I have published articles in VegNews and in the Vegetarian Voice, the journal of the North American Vegetarian Society.

I object to the recommended allocation of Community Pres funds as described in the Declaration of Cory Fein, Esq., dated September 24th, 2001, because:

Being both vegetarian and a Jew who follows dietary laws, I was personally terribly upset by the information that was finally released by McDonalds'; the knowledge that I had ingested animal products was very distressing to me and my family. I feel both deceived and angry.

I object to non-vegetarian organizations receiving funds; I believe it unfair to ignore so many worthy organizations who reach more people than those proposed. As a Board Member of the North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS), I am pleased they are included in the claim, but feel that the amount is truly disproportionately large. The recipients should include diverse organizations who disseminate vital vegetarian information and expertise to the public, as well as hunger organizations who deal directly by disseminating vegetarian food to needy people.

I feel it bizarre that McDonald's would be permitted to decide on disbursements of funds to so many organizations who are patently non-vegetarian or anti-vegetarian! If the intent of the settlement is to

make amends to the class who have been injured by McDonald's misrepresentations, it is in the interest of justice that true vegetarian organizations be the recipients of the Cy Pres funds.

I respectfully urge the court to reject the proposed allocation and open up the process to a wider representation of vegetarianism in the U.S. Millions of dollars going to a few small vegetarian groups will be of far less benefit to the plaintiffs' class than smaller amounts going to a larger number of organizations. I would urge the court to appoint an unbiased special master who would in good faith evaluate and develop a list of organizations and sums which more fairly reflect the potential benefit to the class as a whole.

In the event that the Court prefers to coordinate distribution of the Cy Pres funds directly, I would request that the Maimonides Project, a qualified vegetarian organization, receive \$100,000 of Cy Pres funds to continue its work feeding and assisting the hungry in local communities.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Illinois and the State New York, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Respectfully submitted at Pittsford, New York, on this 29th day of October, 2002.

RHODA MYRA SAPON

Rhoda Myra Sapon, Declarant 62 Sturbridge Lane Pittsford, NY 14534 phone: 585-381-5780