

**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 STANLEY M.  
SAPON, Ph.D., IN OPPOSITION TO  
THE RECOMMENDED  
ALLOCATION OF *COMMUNITY  
PRES FUNDS TO THE VEGETARIAN  
RESOURCE GROUP***

I, STANLEY M. SAPON, Ph.D., declare the following to be true:

I am a resident of the County of Monroe, New York, and have been vegetarian since 1976. 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.

I have been active in the advocacy and promotion of vegetarian principles and lifestyle for almost 25 years.

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 grassroots 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.

I have been a member of the Board of Trustees of the North American Vegetarian Society since 1996.

I am on the Advisory Board of VegNews, project 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, Vegetarian Voice (journal of the North American Vegetarian Society), the journal of the Jewish Vegetarians of North America, EarthSave Magazine, Satya Magazine, The Viva Vine (journal of the VivaVeggie Society of New York), the journal of the European Vegetarian Union, the publications of the International Vegetarian Union, Queensland (Australia) Vegan and Vegetarian Society, and other journals of vegetarian and Vegan societies in the USA and abroad (Netherlands, Indonesia, Canada, France, et al). I given presentations and plenary addresses at national and international congresses on vegetarian and Vegan issues.

I maintain a web-site, [www.VeganValues.org](http://www.VeganValues.org) (hosted by VegSource), viewed by more than 1500 visitors every month.

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

As a Jewish vegetarian who observes religious dietary laws, I am deeply distressed and angered by the knowledge that, deceived by McDonald's, I had ingested totally repugnant animal products.

I am offended by the moral contradictions effected by the granting of funds to blatantly non-vegetarian organizations. Proposing to allocate funds to organizations whose programs grossly violate

vegetarian principles and ethical values makes an insulting mockery of the stated purposes of the settlement.

The proposed distribution unfairly fails to recognize many active vegetarian organizations who reach out to large numbers of people, while giving support to organizations of relatively limited educational and philosophical impact. For example, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the North American Vegetarian Society for the past six years, I am pleased to see them included in the claim. Nevertheless, an award of one million dollars is truly disproportionate to the magnitude of their influence in the national vegetarian community . The awards should go to support the work of organizations who freely dispense vital information and expertise on vegetarian living to lower income segments of the public, as well as hunger organizations who deal directly by supplying vegetarian food to needy people.

I am shocked to learn that McDonald's is making the determinations on disbursements of funds to non-vegetarian organizations. It is the injured parties who must decide the provisions of their relief, not the offending party. I respectfully urge the court to reject this sham proposal and appoint an unbiased special master to assume control of recommending allocation of Cy Pres funds, someone who will seek to develop a list which could truly reflect an understanding of the vegetarian world in the U.S., and which could justly represent the interests of the plaintiffs' class.

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 30<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2002.

STANLEY M. SAPON, Ph.D.

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