

Local Health-Freedom Attorney is Quack-buster Buster!

By Lynnea M. Bylund
San Clemente Topix Editor

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Last week, in a strongly worded opinion, the Appeals Court for the State of Pennsylvania ruled against Stephen Barrett M.D. (aka the "Quack-buster"), a long-time critic of chiropractic and other alternative and holistic healthcare. In an action that chiropractors see as a major setback for their nemesis, the judge refused to overturn a 2005 decision against Barrett. The earlier lawsuit was won by chiropractor Tedd Koren, DC, whose company markets chiropractic educational pamphlets that Barrett had harshly criticized.

Carlos Negrete



Dr. Koren was represented both times by local lawyer Carlos Negrete, of the San Clemente neighboring community of San Juan Capistrano, a nationally noted health-freedom attorney whose specialty is aggressive litigation and representation of alternative and holistic healthcare providers.

Stephen Barrett M.D., known in many circles as a professional "quack-buster", or "consumer medical advocate", is a hero to some and a long-time scourge to others in the alternative healing professions and their patients.

According to the verdict in the Appeals Court of the State of Pennsylvania, Barrett is the loser in his defamation case against chiropractor Tedd Koren, D.C. Barrett charged Koren with defamation of character and lost, according to a June 14 press release by the [World Chiropractic Alliance](#).

Koren's company, Koren Publications, which markets educational pamphlets for chiropractors, once referred to Barrett as a "Quackpot" and that his vocal nemesis was "de-licensed," and "in trouble."

As a result, Barrett sued Koren for defamation in 2002 and a three-lawyer arbitration panel awarded Barrett damages in the amount of \$16,500 and ordered Koren to retract his statements. In October of 2005, Judge J. Brian Johnson of the Pennsylvania court dismissed the lawsuit and ruled in favor of Koren and his First Amendment rights. The Pennsylvania Appeals Court upheld the original court's decision on June 14, 2007.

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Barrett's quackery claims, found on his ten-year running web site Quackwatch.com, extend well beyond chiropractic care to many or most fields in alternative and holistic medicine, and include what Barrett deems as "Fad Diagnoses," such as Lyme disease, Gulf War Syndrome, Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

Additionally, Quackwatch.com publishes far-reaching criticisms in position papers and forum discussions against a plethora of well-known individuals such as [Andrew Weil](#), twice Nobel Prize winner [Linus Pauling](#), and Deepak Chopra, among hundreds of others both respected and controversial in their respective fields.

Attorney Carlos Negrete said, "facts about Barrett's own credentials that shocked even his supporters" came out in the proceedings and "under intense cross-examination, Barrett admitted that he had not been a licensed physician for more than a decade and had failed the neurological exam, preventing him from being certified as a specialist."

"Barrett also admitted, under questioning, that he misrepresented himself as a licensed physician in a previous court case," said Negrete.

AMA Antitrust Activities

The American Medical Association has a long standing history of trying to monopolize healthcare in the United States by eliminating competition. In 1987, and again reaffirmed in 1990, [Wilk v. AMA](#) a Federal court ruled that the AMA and other individuals and organizations had conspired to contain and eliminate the practice of chiropractic. The court found that the AMA and its officials instituted a boycott of chiropractors and made it unethical for medical doctors to associate with chiropractors.

This boycott disallowing a medical doctor to associate with a chiropractor was only one part of a seeming comprehensive multi-phase antitrust strategy to eliminate chiropractic. The AMA also made illegal attempts to undermine chiropractic educational institutions, conceal evidence of the usefulness of chiropractic care, undercut insurance programs for patients of chiropractors, subvert government inquiries into the efficacy of chiropractic, engage in a massive disinformation campaign to discredit and destabilize the chiropractic profession, and engage in numerous other illegal activities to maintain a monopolistic hold over healthcare in America.

It has been reported that the AMA's Committee on Quackery was the group purportedly assigned with the task of eliminating chiropractic. A sub-group of the Committee on Quackery called the Coordinating Conference on Health Information (CCHI) was also set up to perform covert activities and operated in total secrecy.

According to Joseph Lisa in his book, "The Assault on Medical Freedom," in 1974, the CCHI and its activities were turned over to regional councils against health fraud. According to Lisa, Stephen Barrett, MD, a psychiatrist in Allentown Pennsylvania was the leader of one of the affiliate groups called the Lehigh Valley Council Against Health Fraud.

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Notice the intentional transition from the word quackery to describe non-conventional health care, to the words health fraud. In 1977, the Allentown group merged with the California Committee Against Health Fraud to form the National Council Against Health Fraud (NCAHF) which is still in existence today and is still an advocate against chiropractic.

The Quack-buster's Anti-chiropractic Career

It is thought by many in the chiropractic industry that Barrett has made a career out of attacking chiropractors and their methods. Chiropractic care makes up a significant proportion of the Quackwatch web site slanderings. Yet, for better or worse, there are few alternative health industries Barrett or his followers fail to attack in some form or fashion.

One of Barrett's anti health-choice activities is to frequently file libel lawsuits against non-conventional health care practitioners, manufacturers and publishers. He testified in court to filing lawsuits against at least forty individuals in the alternative healing arts.

One of these lawsuits was filed against well known chiropractor, Dr. Tedd Koren and his publishing company, Koren Publications in 2003. Perhaps it is no coincidence that Barrett admits that he is a consultant to the FTC who unsuccessfully tried to destroy Koren's publishing business in the 1990's using tactics intimately familiar to the CCHI and NCAHF. The FTC investigation was withdrawn after a full briefing of the facts to FTC officials by Dr. Koren's attorneys.

Realizing that the defamation lawsuit was just another of Barrett's continued, conspiratorial tactics to destroy chiropractic, Dr. Koren decided that this time things would be different. In order to officially link Barrett to the original conspiracy revealed in [Wilk v. AMA](#), he and Foundation for Health Choice cofounder and attorney Jim Turner, would have to get Barrett to court instead of settling like so many of his predecessors did.

That's when Carlos Negrete of San Juan Capistrano and his client Tedd Koren decided to take this precedent setting case to trial. This way, they could challenge Barrett and put his activities to the test before a jury of his own peers in his home town. The Barrett v. Koren trial took place between October 10th and October 13th 2005, and the case was thrown out by the judge before it went to the jury because Barrett had not provided sufficient evidence to prove his case. Barrett did, however, provide plenty of sufficient evidence to show that he was linked to the continued conspiracy against chiropractic.

This is not Attorney Negrete's first victory against the self-described Quack-buster. In 2002 Negrete successfully represented well known anti-fluoridation advocate, Darlene Sherrell in a suite brought against her by Barrett. Sherrell is a well known independent researcher and expert on the dangers of excessive daily intake of fluoride in human beings leading to chronic fluoride poisoning.

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At trial Sherrell testified that she believed that Barrett was a "virtual lobbyist" for the AMA and drug, chemical and food companies.

Negrete, and his San Juan Capistrano-based [Health Freedom Legal Defense Council](#) also beat de-licensed quack-buster Barrett in [Stephen Barrett, M.D. vs. Joseph M. Mercola, D.O.](#) Mercola, an osteopathic physician, health activist, and entrepreneur practicing near Chicago, is the author of two New York Times best-sellers, *The No-Grain Diet* (with Alison Rose Levy), and *The Great Bird Flu Hoax*, together with several other books. He is best known as founder and editor of the popular website [Mercola.com](#). On his website, he advocates dietary and lifestyle approaches to health. He criticizes many of the practices of mainstream medicine and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), particularly vaccination and the frequent use of prescription drugs and surgery to treat diseases. Negrete's representation of Mercola resulted in a case dismissal of Barrett's suit.

Despite the growing acceptance, recognition, and precedent-setting legal victories, top alternative healers and health freedom consumer advocacy groups in the United States are continuing to be clandestinely targeted by organized disruption campaigns and "black PR" efforts being instigated by forces within the medical-chemical-food industrial combine, which seeks to monopolize healthcare and perpetuate disease for profits. The apparent purpose of these campaigns is to discredit, disrupt and censor natural health and health freedom political and educational efforts.

In the above sense, Carlos Negrete is a health-freedom hero whose numerous victories against corporate-owned medicine protect and further the health-freedom rights and choices of all Americans.

Lynnea Bylund is a former Washington small-business lobbyist with a degree in holistic health. She is the San Clemente Topix News Page Editor, as well as an ongoing contributor to various independent media on issues dealing with Small Business, Barter, the 'New Economy' and Holistic Well Being. In 2006 Lynnea was awarded the prestigious Congressional Medal of Distinction in recognition of her continued efforts as a small business advocate and activist. She resides in San Clemente.