The Year in Review

We are pleased to report that Atlantic Legal Foundation had an excellent year in 2008, taking on several new initiatives and answering the call of new clients with cases well-suited to our fundamental mission. The importance of our work was recognized by prominent figures in the corporate and legal communities.

On the litigation front, the Foundation challenged a local government's interference with interstate commerce and (allied with the Department of Justice) supported traditional notions of international comity in the face of claims that U.S. corporations aided and abetted South Africa's former apartheid regime. In another appellate court we took issue with the federal government's criminal prosecution under the Clean Air Act of alleged violations of, we argued, hopelessly ambiguous regulations, notwithstanding the absence of any adverse environmental impact. In a trial court, we are defending a small chemical company against an overzealous Environmental Protection Agency which disregards its own findings. The application of sound scientific principles was at the heart of an asbestos-related disease appeal, just as we advocated for the application of sound science in the effort to assure operation of the European Large Hadron Collider. In these matters the Foundation represented prominent national business associations, distinguished scientists and educators and entrepreneurs otherwise unable to receive competent counsel.

The Foundation's energetic advocacy of charter schools continues. New employment law guides for charters in Michigan, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming were completed as was a report exposing the wasteful and expensive procedures now required when New York charter schools apply for renewed charter terms.
The Foundation’s *amicus* brief, citing criticism of class actions in commercial cases and supporting collective action waivers, was recognized by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

In October, the Foundation issued a report, described by retiring New York Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye as “a comprehensive, articulate call for freeing judicial compensation from the jaws of politics.” Our report highlighted the risks of inadequate judicial compensation for the New York economy and its business community. Also in October, we sponsored with the New York City Bar Association a program addressing ways to reduce costs of commercial litigation. The faculty was comprised of outstanding general counsel, jurists and prominent litigators. Atlantic Legal Director Bill Lytton was the keynote speaker, discussing “The Need to Change The Way We Train Lawyers,” which has been published and is available on our website.

The Foundation’s Annual Award was presented to William Weldon, Chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson, with a capacity crowd in attendance.

Our leadership remains strong and committed to the Foundation’s work. We welcomed Joe G. Hollingsworth, Gregory J. Morrow and David E. Wood to the board. The depth and diverse experience of members of our board and advisory council continue to assure outstanding success for our Foundation in the pursuit of its mission.

* * *

We are grateful to the corporations, foundations, law firms, and many private citizens who support Atlantic Legal’s mission. The economic turbulence and political changes experienced this past year suggest that there will be many challenges to the rule of law and the proper role of government as 2009 unfolds; and, we stand ready to press the Foundation’s mission with the energy and impact we have demonstrated for more than three decades.

Hayward D. Fisk  
Chairman

William H. Slattery  
President
In 2008 the Foundation was very active in cases in a number of areas that constitute its core mission, both in direct representation and in filing amicus briefs.

**Burdens on Interstate Commerce — Illinois Restaurant Association, et al. v. City of Chicago**

Less than two weeks before the Foundation was to argue an appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the Chicago City Council overwhelmingly voted to repeal the ordinance Chicago had enacted to prohibit serving foie gras in restaurants. The ordinance was challenged by the Illinois Restaurant Association and a local restaurant, represented by the Chicago office of a national law firm, on the grounds that the local law impermissibly interfered with and burdened interstate commerce. The district court found in favor of the City, holding that, because the ban did not discriminate in favor of local business, it did not violate the Interstate Commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. The law firm asked Atlantic Legal to become lead counsel on the appeal.

We argued that state or local laws that are not “discriminatory” but excessively burden interstate commerce had to be examined under a “balancing” test that weighed the local interest against the burden on commerce. In this case, the ban was enacted not to protect the health or safety of Chicagoans, or even to ensure humane treatment of animals in Illinois, but rather as a protest against the “inhumane” treatment of ducks and geese in the process of making foie gras, a product that is produced exclusively in other states and foreign countries. The local interest was so ephemeral that it did not justify the ban’s substantial negative impact on interstate and foreign commerce.

Because the ban was repealed, the appeal became moot and the Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal and remanded to the district court with instructions to dismiss without prejudice.


Atlantic Legal is special counsel to a major national law firm in defending a small chemical manufacturing company and its principal against a recovery claim brought by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. EPA claims it is entitled to recover costs of approximately $1.2 million.

EPA conducted a “Removal Action” (“RA”) to remove chemicals that had leaked from four tanks owned by the company at a leased site based on the belief that the tanks contained ignitable “hazardous waste.” A later report, prepared by the same EPA consultant which had made the original finding of the presence of ignitable material, concluded that the contamination was not a risk to health and safety. In 2001, the EPA tested the four tanks on the site for the presence of hazardous waste, and found that the substances in the tanks were not ignitable and therefore the site was not eligible for a RA. In 2004, the EPA again tested the tanks for the possibility of hazardous waste and found that the contents of the tanks were not ignitable, but contained hazardous waste. An independent research group subsequently found that the EPA’s testing was flawed and that there was in fact no hazardous waste in the tanks. Between 1999 and the commencement of the RA, a contractor for the local town government removed the tanks because the chemical company was no longer using the site. In the course of that operation, the town’s contractor overturned one of the tanks, causing the release of chemicals; prior to that there had been no release of material from the storage tanks.

The Foundation is participating in this case to challenge the EPA’s penchant for targeting small businesses, without the resources to defend against EPA’s willful ignorance or distortion of the evidence in its own administrative record.
Partnersing with the international law firm DLA Piper, the Foundation filed an amicus brief in support of a petition for certiorari by more than 50 major international corporations, seeking interlocutory review of a decision of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, which reversed the trial court and held that a case brought under the Alien Tort Claims Act could proceed in U.S. courts against U.S. and foreign corporations for their role in "aiding and abetting" South Africa's former apartheid regime.

The overriding issue is whether allowing the cases to proceed, over the strong objections of the current majority black government of South Africa and opposition of the United States Executive Branch, comports with the Supreme Court's recent decisions which require trial courts to inquire as to whether "case specific" political question "deference" should supersede or whether international comity considerations should prevail.

We focused on the principle of international comity, which teaches that one nation should, under most circumstances, defer to the legislative, executive or judicial acts of another nation within its territory, and that under the principles of comity, United States courts ordinarily refuse to review acts of foreign governments and defer to proceedings taking place in foreign countries, allowing those acts and proceedings to have extraterritorial effect in the United States.

In this case, the democratically elected government of the Republic of South Africa, with the overwhelming mandate of its people, is addressing the legacy of apartheid internally, and, we argued, failing to accord the comity to which South Africa is entitled and instead permitting the cases to continue, is an affront to that country's sovereignty.

We also argued that exposure to potential actions created by the Second Circuit's ruling places the international business community in an untenable position because in this case the defendant multinational corporations were complying with the official policies of the United States and other Western democracies to promote economic and social reform in South Africa through economic engagement. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court did not grant the petition for certiorari.

The Foundation submitted an "amicus letter" to the California Supreme Court on behalf of 14 prominent scientists urging the court to grant review in a case involving liability of a manufacturer of plasterboard joint compound for mesothelioma incurred by an individual whose exposure was limited to his use of joint compound from several manufacturers on a part time basis for a limited period of time. Bondex's joint compound contained only chrysotile asbestos, which has been found to be much less potent for causing mesothelioma than other types of asbestos. Plaintiff did not introduce any evidence as to the quantity of asbestos to which he was exposed or establish the reasonable medical probability that his exposure to this defendant's product was a "substantial factor" in bringing about the injury.

The issue is whether a plaintiff who has been exposed to multiple sources of asbestos can recover damages from a manufacturer of an asbestos containing product if the plaintiff shows some exposure to that product, but does not quantify, even approximately, the amount of that exposure.

In the landmark case in California, Rutherford v. Owens Illinois, Inc., the California Supreme Court held that a plaintiff must establish that there is a reasonable medical probability that exposure to the defendant's product was a "substantial factor" in contributing to his risk of developing the asbestos related disease. Rutherford suggested that the plaintiff must show some amount of exposure to asbestos from the defendant's product, and that the exposure must exceed a threshold level scientifically proven to increase the risk of developing the disease and that a plaintiff typically must show "the length, frequency, proximity and intensity of exposure."

The Foundation urged the California Supreme Court to grant review and clarify Rutherford. We argued that properly construed Rutherford is consistent with the scientific approach to causation, but that the recent intermediate appellate court decisions, diluting the required type and quantum of evidence described in Rutherford as necessary to prove causation, are inconsistent with the approach to establishing causation that scientists accept.
The Foundation filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Federation of Independent Business Small Business Legal Center opposing the Government’s appeal from an order for a new trial in a criminal prosecution for violation of EPA regulations. The case involves novel issues under the Clean Air Act and an important fair notice issue under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

San Diego Gas & Electric Company sold a decommissioned natural gas storage facility to a real estate developer. As part of the transaction, SDG&E removed all of its equipment from the site, including miles of underground pipes covered with multi-layered coating, one of which layers contained asbestos. Licensed asbestos abatement contractors and experts retained by SDG&E concluded that the coating material was not subject to federal regulation. Local, state and federal government inspectors were on site more than 20 times during the course of the removal operations. Nevertheless, the federal government criminally charged SDG&E and three individual defendants with violating federal regulations.

After a jury trial (at which SDG&E introduced air and soil samples showing that not a single fiber of asbestos was released from the site) one count of the indictment was dismissed. One of the individual defendants was acquitted, but SDG&E was convicted on three counts alleging violations of the Clean Air Act and associated asbestos regulations and of making a false statement and two individual defendants were convicted on some counts and acquitted on others. The trial court granted a new trial on every count and the government appealed.

The Foundation participated in this case because the regulatory fair notice issue is of increasing importance in a legal environment in which more activities are affected by often intricate, highly technical and sometimes obscure regulations for which government agencies do not provide clear interpretations or guidelines. The problem is aggravated when violation of the regulations in question carries criminal as well as civil penalties.

Continuing its representation of prominent scientists in its effort to educate courts about important scientific issues that bear on legal cases, Atlantic Legal represents three prominent physicists as friends of the court against challenges to the United States’ financial support for the construction of the Large Hadron Collider, a subatomic particle accelerator, near Geneva, Switzerland, and research to be conducted there. The complaint alleges that the United States and other defendants violated the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to prepare an environmental impact analysis of several theoretical risks that plaintiffs allege could be produced by the Collider. Two of our clients are Nobel Prize winners in Physics. The third has held endowed chairs in physics at Harvard University, was chairman of the Harvard Cyclotron Operating Committee, and has expertise in high energy physics, radiation physics, nuclear safety and risk analysis.

Atlantic Legal’s amicus brief supported the federal defendants’ arguments that plaintiffs’ allegations of injury are speculative and not scientifically credible. Our brief reviewed the thorough scientific safety and risk analyses the Collider has undergone, and explained why plaintiffs’ claims are not based on rigorous scientific analysis and have not been accepted by the scientific community.

The district court dismissed the complaint, and the plaintiffs have filed a notice of appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
Judicial Compensation — Atlantic Legal Focuses On New York Stalemate

In October 2008, Atlantic Legal issued its report considering the impact on New York’s business and economy of judicial salaries that have not been increased since 1999. Judicial compensation in New York has fallen below civil servants, law school deans, counsels of universities and fledgling Wall Street lawyers — not to mention earnings of seasoned private practitioners. As a consequence, the Foundation’s report found, experienced judges have been forced to leave the bench; perhaps as disturbing, commercial lawyers in private practice are no longer attracted to the New York judiciary in adequate numbers which can have a negative impact on the quality of decisions handed down in commercial cases.

The report advanced a number of conclusions, urging the business community to include judicial compensation in its legislative agenda:

“The inadequate compensation of New York Judges and its unfortunate present and impending impact on New York’s economy is an undisputed fact, recognized by an unusually broad array of journalists, legal advocacy groups and civic organizations. Remarkably, the business community has so far failed to marshal adequately its substantial influence and resources behind compensation reforms that all agree are both fair and necessary. The New York business community, individually and collectively, must be more vocal in calling attention to the damage that will be inflicted on the State’s economy if the current stalemate is not promptly resolved.”

The Foundation’s report has been distributed widely, is available on our website and has been praised by the Chief Judge at a banquet celebrating in-house corporate counsel. It also has been recognized and welcomed by commentators who argue that compensation for federal judges is also inadequate.

Charter School Advocacy Continues

Business leaders continue to point out that public schools need to improve. Former IBM Chief Louis V. Gerstner wrote in The Wall Street Journal in December:

“Despite decade after decade of reform efforts, our public K-12 schools have not improved. We can point to individual schools and some entire districts that have advanced, but the system as a whole is still failing. High school and college graduation rates, test scores, the number of graduates majoring in science and engineering all are flat or down over the past two decades. Disappointingly, the relative performance of our students has suffered compared to those of other nations.”

A very promising solution to conventional, all too often failing schools is the charter school model where test scores and graduation rates show solid improvement and long waiting lists for admission are common.

Atlantic Legal has worked to support charter schools and their advocates for almost a decade. This past year it added to its published series advising charter educators about union organizing tactics with a new Michigan edition of “Leveling the Playing Field,” published in conjunction with the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. We also published a human resource guide for charter schools in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. In addition, at the request of the New York Charter Schools Association, the Foundation undertook a study of requirements charters need to meet when seeking to renew their charter term. A number of burdensome, inefficient and costly bureaucratic practices were uncovered and common sense reforms recommended.
On October 30, Atlantic Legal, in partnership with the New York City Bar Association, sponsored a full-day program, “How to Reduce Corporate Litigation Costs and Still Win Your Case,” held at the House of the Association in New York City. The program featured an outstanding faculty of general counsel of major corporations, leading law firm litigators and federal and state judges. Program co-chairs were Atlantic Legal Directors Augustus duPont and Frank Menaker, and Atlantic Legal Advisor Henry Butler. Atlantic Legal Director Robert Haig served as moderator and led interactive panel discussions for each of the seven panels:

**Litigation Avoidance & Prevention:**
Brad S. Karp
Chairman
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP

Sandra Leung
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Roderick A. Palmore
Executive Vice President, General Counsel
and Chief Compliance and Risk Management Officer
General Mills, Inc.

Jeffrey S. Sherman
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Becton, Dickinson and Company

**Planning, Budgeting & Fee Arrangements:**
D. Cameron Findlay
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Aon Corporation

Thomas L. Sager
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
DuPont Company

Hon. Richard J. Sullivan
United States District Court

William C. Carmody
Susman Godfrey LLP

**Case Management & Staffing:**
John M. Callagy
Chairman
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP

Janet Dhillon
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
US Airways Inc.

Roy L. Reardon
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP

Stephen R. Reynolds
General Counsel
Alcatel-Lucent

**Alternative Dispute Resolution:**
Hon. Bernard J. Fried
Supreme Court of the State of New York

Jonathan Graham
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Danaher Corporation

Peter M. Lieb
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
NCR Corporation

Gregory A. Markel
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

John L. Warden
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

**Ethical Issues in Corporate Litigation:**
Jennifer M. Daniels
Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
Barnes & Noble, Inc.

Hon. Richard J. Holwell
United States District Court

Jerome S. Hirsch
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Gary P. Naftalis
Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

**Electronic Discovery & Litigation Technology:**
Paul T. Dacier
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
EMC Corporation

Daniel F. Kolb
Davis Polk & Wardwell

Louis M. Solomon
Proskauer Rose LLP

**Expert Witnesses:**
Evan R. Chesler
Presiding Partner
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP

Ronald E. Gots, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
International Center for Toxicology and Medicine

James W. Quinn
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Hon. Charles E. Ramos
Supreme Court of the State of New York
The Foundation presented its first Annual Award in 1988 to honor a person who exemplifies the ideals and principles of public service and private enterprise. On October 29, 2008, Atlantic Legal proudly presented its Annual Award for 2008 to William C. Weldon, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Johnson & Johnson.

Bill Weldon was elected to Johnson & Johnson’s Board of Directors and named Vice Chairman of the Board in 2001 and assumed his current responsibilities in 2002. Mr. Weldon is also a Director of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and is a member of The Business Council and the Sullivan Alliance to Transform America’s Health Profession. He is a Trustee of Quinnipiac University and serves on the Library Science Center Chairman’s Advisory Council. Mr. Weldon also serves as Chairman of the CEO Roundtable on Cancer.

In accepting the Award, Mr. Weldon addressed “Responsible Corporate Leadership – Supporting Quality Health Care.” Describing Johnson & Johnson’s philosophy, Mr. Weldon emphasized the central importance of its credo:

“At Johnson & Johnson we believe that we have a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to help improve the health of people across the globe. In this regard, we also have a significant competitive advantage – our credo – a statement of our values and responsibilities that was written more than 60 years ago. It articulates our responsibilities to customers, employees, communities and shareholders. It sets the tone at Johnson & Johnson.”

He went on to give several examples of how Johnson & Johnson works at being a good corporate citizen and devoted particular attention to Johnson & Johnson’s commitment to wellness and prevention:

“...as individuals, payers, and governments struggle to address soaring health care costs, we believe that a comprehensive solution must begin long before the onset of illness. We recognize that investing in wellness and prevention now can avoid more costly health care expenses later. This focus on prevention is one element of our effort to advance quality health care systems around the world. All too frequently, industry is viewed as lobbying against regulation, and not seen as offering solutions to problems. We thought it was important to state what we stand for and support in health care reform, to help shape the debate on these important issues.”

He concluded:

“We at J&J have a sense of real responsibility to play a part in improving the quality of health care for people across the globe. This of course includes discovering and providing break-through products that cure disease and save lives. It means finding creative ways to provide access to these products to people who cannot afford them. And it means being an active participant working with others to improve health care systems in the U.S. and around the globe. Working together, we can make a difference.”

Mr. Weldon was also generous in recognizing the work of Atlantic Legal:

“We really appreciate the fine work the Atlantic Legal Foundation does to ensure that, in the courtrooms across our country, sound science and fairness in both law and procedures apply in the complex and significant cases heard everyday. Your work matters...”
(L-R) Carlos Lazatin, Stephen Akerley and Richard Goetz of O'Melveny & Myers

Atlantic Legal General Counsel Martin Kaufman and guest Sepeleh Tofigh

(L-R) Larry Turner and Justin Reliford of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Guests Kate Kerrigan and Susie van den Berg

(L-R) Johnson & Johnson's Russ Deyo, flanked by Paul Kalb and Michael Davis of Sidley & Austin

(L-R) George Pappas of Covington & Burling, Stephen Sozio of Jones Day and Harry Roper of Jenner & Block
Bill Weldon addresses "Responsible Corporate Leadership - Supporting Quality Health Care"

(L-R) Atlantic Legal Directors Greg Morrow, George Frazza, Bill Graham and Frank Menaker

Johnson & Johnson Vice President and General Counsel Russell Deyo introduces Bill Weldon

(L-R) Dan Fisk, Honoree Bill Weldon, Atlantic Legal Director Robert Lonergan

Chairman Fisk presents Honoree Weldon with the Tiffany mantel clock
Annual Award Recipients 1988-2008

2008
William C. Weldon
Chairman of the Board and CEO
Johnson & Johnson

2007
Hon. Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to President George W. Bush
Former Counsel to President Ronald Reagan

2006
Thomas J. Donohue
President and CEO
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

2005
Edward D. Breen
Chairman and CEO
Tyco International Ltd.

2004
Hon. George J. Mitchell
Former United States Senator
Chairman, The Walt Disney Company
Partner, Piper Rudnick LLP

2003
Maurice R. Greenberg
Chairman and CEO
American International Group, Inc.

2002
Henry A. McKinnell, Jr., Ph.D.
Chairman and CEO
Pfizer Inc

2001
Hon. William S. Cohen
Former Secretary of Defense
and United States Senator

2000
Norman R. Augustine
Retired Chairman and CEO
Lockheed Martin Corporation

1999
General P. X. Kelley
Former Commandant of the Marine Corps

1998
Hon. Rudolph Giuliani
Mayor of New York City

1997
Hon. Donald Rumsfeld
Former Secretary of Defense

1996
Bruce Atwater
Retired Chairman and CEO
General Mills, Inc.

1995
Alfred C. DeCrane, Jr.
Chairman and CEO
Texaco Inc.

1994
Malcolm S. Forbes
Chairman and CEO
Forbes, Inc.

1993
Amb. Carla Anderson Hills
United States Trade Representative

1992
Paul H. Henson
Retired Chairman and CEO
Sprint Corporation

1991
Walter B. Wriston
Retired Chairman and CEO
Citicorp

1990
Irving S. Shapiro
Retired Chairman and CEO
DuPont

1989
Edmund T. Pratt, Jr.
Chairman and CEO
Pfizer Inc

1988
Hon. William E. Simon
Former Secretary of Treasury
New Board Members

Joe G. Hollingsworth, Esq.
Joe Hollingsworth is a partner in the Washington, DC firm of Spriggs & Hollingsworth and is a nationally known courtroom advocate. He defends complex cases involving pharmaceutical and medical device product liability, toxic and environmental torts, and prosecutes and defends federal claims involving the government. He has been honored three times by The National Law Journal for the year’s Top Ten Defense Wins.

Gregory J. Morrow, Esq.
Gregory Morrow is Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for Contessa Premium Foods, Inc., a fully integrated, multi-national consumer products company headquartered in Southern California.

Prior to joining Contessa, Mr. Morrow served the United States in multiple capacities. Mr. Morrow has held positions as Senior Trial Attorney for the Interstate Commerce Commission, Special Assistant United States Attorney (Central District of California) and Assistant District Counsel for the Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service.

He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Corporate Counsel, Southern California Chapter, from 1998-2004, chairing the International Committee for four years.

David E. Wood, Esq.
David Wood is a partner at Anderson Kill Wood & Bender, LLP, San Buenaventura, California and was the co-founder of Wood & Bender LLP, one of the country’s leading law firms specializing in insurance policy enforcement. With two decades of experience in the insurance industry, Mr. Wood represents public and private companies enforcing their claims under professional errors and omissions, directors' and officers' liability, special risk and general liability policies, and fidelity bonds.

Mr. Wood is frequently quoted in national media on significant insurance matters. He also is a frequent speaker on insurance policy enforcement matters.
The Foundation had more applications than in previous years for summer intern positions. Interns assisted in legal research, editing, drafting and compiling exhibits. They also participated in seminars designed to acquaint them with the important issues the Foundation advocates.

- Advisor Henry N. Butler, together with Professor Larry E. Ribstein, published an article in Forbes arguing that shareholders should be permitted to “opt out” of expensive Sarbanes – Oxley reporting.

- The Foundation sponsored a half-day program titled “The Future of Credit Default Swaps,” organized by Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman in New York City. The program addressed how these complex financial instruments were likely to be regulated.

- Director Thomas L. Sager has been named Senior Vice President and General Counsel of DuPont Company.

- Chairman Hayward D. Fisk has joined DLA Piper US LLP as a partner upon retirement from CSC as its Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary for the previous twenty years;

- Director Ernest T. Patrikis has joined White & Case LLP as a partner.


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As of December 31, 2008

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University of Pennsylvania Law School

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Stephen T. Whelan, Esq.
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Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP

Lance H. Wilson, Esq.
Senior Vice President
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Professor Richard Wilson
Mallinckrodt Professor
of Physics Emeritus
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Atlantic Legal Foundation: Mission and Programs

The Atlantic Legal Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public interest law firm with a demonstrable three-decade record of advancing the rule of law by advocating limited, effective government, free enterprise, individual liberty, school choice and sound science in the courtroom. To accomplish its goals, Atlantic Legal provides legal representation and counsel, without fee, to parents, scientists, educators, and other individuals, corporations, trade associations and other groups. The Foundation also undertakes educational efforts in the form of handbooks and conferences on pertinent legal matters.

Atlantic Legal’s Board of Directors and Advisory Council include the active and retired chief legal officers of some of America’s most respected corporations, distinguished scientists and academicians and members of national and international law firms.

The Foundation currently concentrates primarily on four areas: representing prominent scientists and academicians in advocating the admissibility in judicial and regulatory proceedings of sound expert opinion evidence; parental choice in education; corporate governance; and, application of equal protection under the law by government agencies.

Atlantic Legal’s cases and initiatives have resulted in the protection of the rights of thousands of school children, employees, independent businessmen, and entrepreneurs. In case after case, Atlantic Legal brings about favorable resolutions for individuals and corporations who continue to be challenged by those who use the legal process to deny fundamental rights and liberties. Please visit www.atlanticlegal.org and www.DefendCharterSchools.org where the Foundation’s most recent activities are detailed.