

//NEWS RELEASE//

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monk fights UK University over inheritance

Sedgwick, Maine (USA) – April 1, 2013 –

A Zen Buddhist priest and longtime social justice advocate has come to legal blows with the University of Nottingham, claiming in a U.S. court that the U.K. institution wrongfully used duress to convince his father to bequeath the entirety of a nearly \$3 million estate to the school while leaving the priest who, with his minor sons were the original sole beneficiaries, \$5,000.

Engaged Zen Foundation co-founder Rev. Kobutsu Malone, author of a leading manual on prison chaplaincy, asserts in the action in the New Jersey Superior Court, that his father, Kevin B. Malone, a Roman Catholic who never attended the University of Nottingham, wrote his only child and two grandchildren out of his Will after the priest wrote a letter detailing sexual, physical and emotional abuse he and his classmates suffered while enrolled as students at Oradell, New Jersey's Bergen Catholic High School in the 1960's.



The monk's graphic account of the abuse was published in January 2002 in a letter sent to the high school officials, the Archdiocese, the local police and his father, and was later posted on the Internet. Several dozen other former Bergen Catholic students, now men in their sixties, some prominent in the local community, have added to the site their own first-person accounts of enduring sexual abuse at Bergen Catholic similar to that recounted by Rev. Malone. In a hearing last week, the presiding judge in the case acknowledged that he too had attended Bergen Catholic at the time the abuse is alleged to have occurred but indicated he was unaware of the alleged abuse.

Based on court filings, a pair of reciprocal Wills made by Rev. Malone's parents in 1997 granted the remainder of their joint estate, totaling over \$2 million today, to Rev. Malone and his two minor children. Rev. Malone's mother, Ethel; died in February 2001. In February 2002, thirty-two days after Rev. Malone mailed his article exposing the sexual abuse at Bergen Catholic; his father, Kevin B. Malone, wrote his minor grandsons out of his Will and reduced his son's bequest to \$5,000.

All this came as a revelation to the monk when, after his father's death in 2011 at age 89, he learned both the extent of his father's estate and that nearly all of it had been left to the University of Nottingham. The monk was astonished again in 2012 when he learned that he and his sons had been the original beneficiaries of his parents' entire estate under their 1997 Wills.

According to court records, the elder Malone, already suffering from delusional mental infirmity, was targeted by University of Nottingham officials and subjected to their undue influence, which included advice from a University official to add an "*in terrorem*" clause to his Will to thwart any challenge to the will by his son. Kevin B. Malone was committed in October 15, 2010, at age 88, suffering from dementia. The documents also allege that Kevin B. Malone changed his Will six times following his wife's death, erratically changing both beneficiaries and executors.

For a time, Oxford University was to have been a beneficiary, but was ultimately bested by the University of Nottingham, after a vigorous campaign by the institution, the documents allege.

The case is scheduled for a trial in Bergen County Superior Court, Chancery Division, Probate Part, on August 19, 2013.

About The Engaged Zen Foundation

The Engaged Zen Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization founded in 1994 to foster contemplative meditative practice in prisons, develop alternative sentencing/post release programs and deal with the complete circle of human rights imperatives. The foundation is inexorably committed to the dismantling of the prison industrial complex, and the adoption of alternative, restorative paradigms within the "criminal justice" system. The Engaged Zen Foundation has published *Gateway Journal* and *Zen Karmics*TM for incarcerated people concerned with spiritual practice and human rights issues behind bars.

About Rev. Kobutsu Kevin C. Malone

Rev. Malone established the Dharma Song Zendo in New York's Sing Sing Prison in 1992 and served for eight years as the volunteer Zen Priest at the facility. In 1996 he established the Flowering Dogwood Zendo at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center, a state prison for sex offenders in Avenel, New Jersey

He is the author of "*Prison Chaplaincy Guidelines for Zen Buddhism: A Sourcebook for Prison Chaplains, Administrators, and Security Personnel*" a book in its second printing intended to provide valid information to prisoners and correctional facility and judicial professionals about the practice of Zen Buddhism in prisons and jails.

He has been involved in death row chaplaincy since 1996 after serving as spiritual advisor for Jusan Frankie Parker and witnessing his execution by the State of Arkansas

on August 8, 1996. He served as the spiritual advisor to Amos Lee King, and witnessed his execution by the State of Florida on February 26th, 2003.

Rev. Malone is involved in anti-death penalty work on state and national levels. He is also involved with human rights, anti-racism, anti-oppression organizations and prison reform groups. He is a writer, a public speaker, and deals with human rights/anti-oppression issues, Zen and Buddhist religious matters, prison reform/abolition, drug policy, death penalty issues and LGBT equality issues. In recent years, he has become intensely focused on issues of sexual, physical and emotional abuse inflicted by clergy on parishioners and others, and clergy misrepresentation and fraud.

Kobutsu is 62 years old, a single parent of two sons, Ian (Taikan) 29 and Sean (Ryushin Taido) 31. Rev. Kobutsu lives in relative hermitage with his Newfoundland/Great Pyrenees mix dog, Harley-Bear 4, in a remote village on the coast of Maine.

SOURCE: The Engaged Zen Foundation

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