

Dear Friends,

Attorney Robert G. "Bob" Bernhoff, founder and principal of the Bernhoff Law Firm (www.bernhofflaw.com) has invited me to attend "Freedom Fest" (www.freedomfest.com), "the world's largest gathering of free minds" as a guest of the firm on July 8th through July 10th. Not only is the Bernhoff firm a Freedom Fest event exhibitor (www.freedomfest.com/exhibitors.htm) but Bob Bernhoff and Robert "Bob" Barnes of the Bernhoff firm will be panelists for the session entitled "Is There Any Justice in America?" scheduled for the main event center on Friday, July 9th and both gentlemen will lead a breakout session entitled "The New American Inquisition: How The Feds Have Criminalized Ordinary Business Practices and What It Means to You, the Successful Business Entrepreneur". Bob Bernhoff and Bob Barnes are among 120 speakers (www.freedomfest.com/speakers10.htm) expected to be present at this year's event.

As my long-time friends and supporters will recall, it was Bob Bernhoff and the dedicated members of his firm who stepped forward to defend me against allegations brought forth in 2004 by the Internal Revenue Service and Department of Justice that I engaged in criminal violations of federal law while assisting and representing one of my clients. Upon reviewing the circumstances of the government case against me, the Bernhoff firm quickly recognized the absurdity of the charges but, given their collective experience regarding the "dirty tricks" often used by the federal government, they nevertheless knew the serious risks that I faced. Despite the well-known cliché that Americans are "innocent until proven guilty", Bob and his firm knew that the reality was much different – that no matter how innocent I was of the charges leveled against me, I would very likely be found guilty unless I could effectively COMMUNICATE my innocence to the jury. Bob and his firm were able to do just that! I provided the innocence and Bob and his firm COMMUNICATED that innocence to the jury. Some articles about my trial and acquittal are available on the firm's website (www.bernhofflaw.com/joseph-banister.htm).

Bob Bernhoff and his firm have expended thousands of man hours on my behalf, many of those hours with little or no compensation, and he and the other attorneys at the Bernhoff firm have foregone not only adequate compensation for their services rendered on my behalf but have incurred SIGNIFICANT personal and professional risks as well for being in my corner. Bob and the dedicated professionals in his firm have never left my corner and those Americans who value the concepts of justice and the rule of law owe them a great debt of gratitude – I know I sure do! The ladies and gentlemen of the Bernhoff firm are truly humble "unsung heroes" in the battle for justice and the rule of law and I hope that my friends and supporters will always recognize them as such.

- Joe Banister