Queens County Bar Association | 90-35 One Hundred Forty Eighth Street, Jamaica, NY 11435 | (718) 291-4500

October 2018, Volume 85 No. 8

Editor's Note:

45 Words that Built our World -- and the Solution to Climate Change

By Paul E. Kerson

I. How this article became to be

Our Queens County Bar Association (QCBA) Speakers Bureau Chair Guy Vitacco, Jr., telephoned me in August. He told me that the QCBA Speakers Bureau had received a request from the Queens Borough Public Library (QBPL) for a speaker at the Forest Hills QBPL Branch on September 24. The topic was the First Amendment. He asked me if I would serve the community in this way. Naturally, I said yes. I spent considerable time researching the lecture. It was very well received by the audience at the QBPL Forest Hills Branch. At the close of the lecture, one of the listeners approached me and said that I must write this up for a larger audience. I decided to take her advice. Since that time, I have come up with numerous additions and ideas for your consideration.

II. <u>Understanding the Origins and Significance on the First Amendment</u>
The First Amendment to the <u>United States</u>
<u>Constitution</u> provides as follows:



"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercising thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of

grievances"

To fully understand the First Amendment, it must be read together with four Subsections of Article 1, Section 8 of the <u>United States Constitution</u>. Article 1, Section 8 provides for certain powers of Congress. Four of these powers directly concern the administration and understanding of the First Amendment. The First Amendment, in summary, provides nation-wide <u>Freedom of Thought</u> unconnected to any Governmental Regime for the first time in recorded history.

The relevant sections of Article 1 Section 8 are as follows:

"Congress shall have the power...

-To regulate Commerce, with foreign Nations, and among the several States and with the Indian Tribes;

-To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States: ...

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The Docket

Being the official notice of the meetings and programs listed below, which, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Bar Association Building, 90-35 148th Street, Jamaica, NY. Due to unforeseen events, please note that dates listed in this schedule are subject to change. More information and changes will be made available to members via written notice and brochures. Questions? Please call 718-291-4500.

ClE Seminar & Event listings

November 2018

Tuesday, November 6Election Day - Office ClosedMonday, November 12Veteran's Day Observed - Office ClosedTuesday, November 13CLE: Landlord & Tenant UpdateThursday, November 15CLE: Real Estate

Thursday, November 22 Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
Friday, November 23 Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed

Wednesday, November 28 CLE: Summary Jury Trials; Why it May be Right for Your Office

December 2018

Thursday, December 6 Holiday Party at Floral Terrace

Monday, December 24 Christmas Holiday - Office Closed

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day - Office Closed

Monday, December 31 New Year's Eve - Office Closed



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President's Message



Please take note and join us at any one or all of our upcoming events:

- CLE on Name Changes/Birth Certificate Changes on October 10, 2018
- Latino Lawyers Annual Dinner on October 11, 2018
- Brandeis Lawyers Association Dinner on October 16, 2018
- CLE on PC's and CC's in Queens Supreme lunchtime on October 17 and 24, 2018
- CLE on Significant Decisions from our Highest Appellate Courts on October 30, 2018
- QCBA Young Lawyers/Professional Development Committee's Welcome Event at the Austin Ale House on November 1, 2018
- Hellenic Lawyers Annual Gala on November 2, 2018.

The summer is over, and QCBA is in full swing for the season! While many of our colleagues were taking some much-needed vacation time in August, our Law School Liaison Committee, chaired by President-Elect Marie-Eleana First and Alla Allison Ageyeva and joined by committee members QCBA Treasurer - Referee Richard Lazarus, Board Members - Michael Abneri, Kristen Dubowski, and Michael Serres, took to the road, setting up tables at Orientations and Welcome Back events for Hofstra University School of Law, St. John's University School of Law, CUNY Law School and Brooklyn Law. I was happy to join the Committee on their visit to St. John's – my own alma mater. The reception from faculty and students alike at each of the local schools has been extremely positive. Many students, including 2L's and 3L's, joined our Association – the next generation of future bar leaders!

QCBA's Annual Golf/Tennis Outing held on September 17, 2018, chaired by David Cohen, was at the Garden City Country Club. A lovely day indeed – the rain held and Joshua Katz, fellow Board Member and Co-Chair of the Family Law Committee, won the day! Several of our members joined the outing for dinner only, including myself. As always, cocktails and dinner were delicious. I highly recommend that each of our members make an effort to attend any part, or all, of next year's Annual Outing – camaraderie in addition to the unique opportunity for extended networking is what makes our Association so special.

The LGBT Committee, chaired by John Duane, had their first networking mixer for the season in conjunction with the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at Austin Ale House. A great turnout was par for the course of a wonderful evening. The feedback regarding this relatively new committee has been tremendous, they are motivated and we welcome their enthusiasm to get involved in QCBA!

We want to welcome our very first Student Ambassador, Christina Lee a 2L from CUNY Law School. She will be joined by other Student Ambassadors from local law schools in the coming months. Student Ambassadors are the liaisons between law schools and QCBA, keeping us abreast of law school happenings and in turn, actively recruiting and promoting the benefits of QCBA Membership to their fellow students.

I look forwarding to seeing you all at the Bar – QCBA that is! Warm Regards,
Hilary Gingold, President

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-To promote the Progress of Science and the useful Arts by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

-To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court..."

All of this was enacted in 1791. The world in 1791 was a very primitive place from our 2018 perspective.

While the first draft of the Constitution submitted to the original 13 states did not include the text of the First Amendment, the Founders thought the ideals of it were already included, as they appeared in various State Constitutions. To gain approval of the several states, the Bill of Rights was later added as the first 10 Amendments.

In order to understand the significance of the First Amendment it is necessary to remember British King Henry VIII's desire for an annulment from his wife Catherine of Aragon in 1534. At that time, the Church of Rome was the Official Church of England. The Pope in Rome would not grant to King Henry VIII an annulment. Thus, King Henry VIII decided to form his own Church, the Church of England and directed that all of his subjects become members.

The population of England at the time was not too happy about this. Many did not want to leave the Church of Rome. There was fighting in the streets.

The second most important event in order to understand the significance of the First Amendment is the experience of perhaps the world's most important scientist of all time. Galileo Galilei was a professor of Mathematics at the University of Padua in Italy in 1633. He studied the facts carefully, made measurements, and concluded that the Earth revolves around the Sun, and not the other way around.

The Church of Rome had a hand in governing Italy in 1633. The Church of Rome's official religious position was that the Sun revolved around the Earth. Galileo insisted that the Church was wrong.

The Church of Rome maintained

a Judicial System called the Inquisition in 1633 to deal with what they considered the worst possible crime: Heresy, that is, opposing Official Church Doctrine. Numerous people were tried and convicted, tortured and executed by the Inquisition. Galileo was one of them. He was found guilty of Heresy and sentenced to house arrest and stripped of his position as Professor of Mathematics.

In our time, Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein both considered Galileo to be the Father of Modern Science. Imagine what Galileo might have discovered had he not spent his most productive years in prison.

The Founding Fathers of the United States knew all about King Henry VIII and Galileo. They were determined to have a new country where no one can tell anyone what to think, how to think, or what to say and when to say it. They were determined that Science would grow unimpeded and they enacted the First Amendment and Article 1, Section 8 for that express purpose. Foreigners were to be welcomed, as "an Uniform Rule of Naturalization" was part of the Constitution. An Author and Inventor was to be protected and to own his or her own ideas. We still have the U.S. Copyright Office and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, perhaps our most important Federal Governmental agencies. The First Amendment effectively repealed the Crime of Heresy. In America since 1791, we are all heretics, but there is no Inquisition, nor can there ever be.

And to sort out the rights of our various heretical Authors and Inventors, the Constitution provides, in Article 1 Section 8, that there shall be "Tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court" to deal with the rights of Authors and Inventors.

And if an Author or Inventor should fail? "Uniform Laws on the Subject of Bankruptcies" are envisioned by the U.S. Constitution, Article 1 Section 8. Our Authors and Inventors are protected against failure. If they fail, their debts can be forgiven, and they can try again.

The above listed <u>Understanding</u> and <u>Framework</u> has resulted in a series of inventions the likes in which the world has

never seen before:

In 1793, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in Savannah, Georgia. This revolutionized the processing of cotton as the seeds can be removed more quickly and the product delivered more efficiently.

In 1838, in Morristown, New Jersey, Samuel F.B. Morse and Leonard Gale invented the telegraph, the original e-mail. Electronic messages could be transmitted instantaneously for the first time. Remember that in 1838, roads were poor and mail service could then take weeks. The telegraph revolutionized communications.

In 1851, Dr. John Gorrie invented the refrigerator in Apalachicola, Florida.

In 1858, Cyrus Field constructed the building of the transatlantic cable from his office in New York City. This enabled telegraph messages to be sent to Europe for the first time.

In 1869, in Promontory Point, Utah the transcontinental railroad was completed. It was constructed by Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins and Charles Crocker. They were the organizers of the Central Pacific Railroad which accomplished this monumental task, actually uniting the United States for the first time.

In 1873 in Providence, Rhode Island, George Brayton invented the internal combustion engine that could be run on kerosene or gasoline.

In 1876, in Boston, Massachusetts Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.

In 1878, in Menlo Park, New Jersey, Thomas Edison invented the phonograph and the electronic generator. Recorded music could be heard for the first time and electricity was harnessed ultimately showing up in every home, office, factory, and farm.

In 1879, also in Menlo Park, New Jersey, Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, ultimately lighting up our entire world.

In 1879 in Washington, D.C. Alexander Graham Bell and Charles Tainter invented the dictaphone enabling creative writing, business writing, and all kinds of recorded communication to be done that much more quickly. This article is written

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on an advanced version of Bell and Tainter's 1879 dictaphone.

In 1883 in New York City, Charles Fritts invented the photoelectric cell and the solar panel. The photoelectric cell was a key component of the later invention of television and cell phones.

In 1892 in Clayton, Iowa, John Froelich invented the tractor, revolutionizing agriculture.

In 1897 in Menlo Park, New Jersey Thomas Edison invented the motion picture projector forever improving artistic expression and the invention of an entire new form of artwork called "the movies".

In 1903 in Dayton, Ohio, Wilbur and Orville Wright invented the airplane in their bicycle shop.

In 1906 in Flint, Michigan, Lloyd Groff Copeman invented the electric stove.

In 1906 in Menlo Park, New Jersey, Thomas Edison invented the storage battery. Today, popularly sold in sizes triple A, double A, A, B, C, and D, the storage battery powers any number of electric devices found in every home, office, factory and farm.

In 1907 in Yonkers, New York Leo Hendrik Baekland invented plastic, the substance that is used to make almost everything under the sun since then.

In 1913 in Highland Park, Michigan, Henry Ford invented the assembly line. This enabled virtually everyone to

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purchase an automobile, or to ride in one. Before 1913, automobiles were the only for the rich and had to be built one at a time.

In 1916 in Memphis, Tennessee, Clarence Saunders invented the supermarket. He called it Piggly Wiggly. Before Clarence Saunders, people dreamed of a "cornucopia" were all kinds of foods were magically produced. The modern American Supermarket sells a very wide variety of food at reasonable prices far beyond the imagination of people in prior centuries.

In 1926, at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, Robert Goddard invented rockets and rocket science, enabling mankind to ultimately reach the moon and to populate outer space with satellites that have advanced our communication beyond anything anyone could have previously imagined.

In 1935, in Wilmington Delaware, Wallace Carothers invented synthetic fibers, thereby bringing the price of clothing way down, and freeing people from having to make their own clothing.

In 1937, in New York City, Chester

Carlson invented the photocopying machine and founded the Xerox Corporation. For those of us old enough to recall carbon paper and the great difficulty of making copies of documents it is not an exaggeration to say that Chester Carlson revolutionized the whole concept of paperwork.

In 1946 in Brooklyn, New York John Biggins of the Flatbush National Bank invented the credit card. This invention had economic effects beyond anything anybody had previously imagined. Now anyone who qualified could literally live the American dream without any money. You can dream about what you wanted, buy it, and then later try and find the money to pay for it. This had the effect of advancing the entire economy 60-90 days for every person in America. Ultimately, today, there are more credit cards in the United States than there are people.

In 1955 at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Jonas Salk invented the Salk vaccine, forever ending the dread disease of polio.

In 1956 in Washington, D.C, Presi-

dent Dwight Eisenhower convinced the United States Congress to use its power to "regulate Commerce... among the several states" and to "establish...post roads" to build the Interstate Highway System, the largest public works project of all time, uniting the country in a way that even the transcontinental railroad could not duplicate. Now anyone was free to drive in his or her car from Henry Ford's assembly line anywhere in the country relatively quickly. Goods could travel by truck to every corner of the country and more efficiently than ever before.

In 1962 in Rogers, Arkansas, Sam Walton invented Wal-mart by using President Eisenhower's Interstate Highway system and Henry Ford's assembly line. Sam Walton was able to deliver to the average American Dr. John Gorrie's refrigerator, Alexander Graham Bell's telephone, Thomas Edison's phonograph, electric generator, light bulb, and motion picture projector, Alexander Graham Bell's and Charles Tainter's Dictaphone, Lloyd Groff Copeman's electric stove, Thomas Edison's storage

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CPLR 2001 and the Death of Centralized Motion Part

By: Andrew D. Grossman, Esq.



Most Queens litigators will remember the Centralized Motion Part (CMP) in Queens Supreme, and many will do so disfondly. Hundreds of attorneys gathered in church-like pews, three stern clerks calling the calendar and culling through hundreds of cases, and a court officer-cum-hallway monitor yelling at the dignified reprobates in the back to take their seats and stop talking.

CMP functioned more like a mail-sorting room than a hall of justice. The clerks- who ran a difficult part with patience and care- checked for uniformity, compliance with process, and the nature of the motion. Substantive motions in full compliance could be submitted, but discovery motions were disfavored, and required the litigants, if the matter could not be resolved, to sit through two full calls of the calendar, and wait to conference with the on-call judge.

The personnel and procedure seemed to have a singular focus: to limit the number of motions submitted. Often, this saved precious judicial resources and resolved disputes where common-sense accommodations could be made. One outgrowth of the focus on clearing motions without submission was a clear procedural bias towards rejecting motions on technical grounds.

One of the more common refrains by the clerk was about any error, no matter how slight, in the notice of motion. It is a jurisdictional defect, they would scold, and the motion had to be filed anew. The flexibility of CPLR 2001, which permits courts to disregard defects absent prejudice, was not in evidence at CMP.

That practice, along with CMP itself, came to an abrupt end in the last year. Queens Supreme dissolved CMP, sending instead each motion to the judge assigned to the case. While few miss the process of CMP, many mourn the loss of uniformity in the submission procedure.

What was once an inflexible but universal set of rules has been replaced by part-specific, sometimes widely divergent practices among the judges. While most parts post their rules online or will gladly provide instructions when asked, this does add a step for the litigator, who must ascertain which set of procedures apply. Attorneys are well-advised to review the assigned judge's rules for each part, and perhaps keep a copy in the client file for reference.

Less abruptly for the average practitioner, last year marked the ten-year anniversary of legislative amendments to CPLR 2001 that expanded a judge's authority to overlook technical defects absent prejudice, upon such terms as are appropriate. This broad judicial power adds efficiency and common sense to the previously strict guidelines governing process, and evidences a trend towards efficiency over strict compliance with procedural norms.

While this power was already in place for motions, in practice, non-compliance gave the clerks an easy way to reject a motion, which was done with frequency.

This issue came up in my practice recently, where an adversary noticed their motion for the correct day, but the prior year. My elated memories of summary denial in CMP were quickly tempered by the recognition that, with the assigned judge hearing the matter, the motion was likely to be heard notwithstanding the defect. The approach taken by a judge for a case assigned to their part is markedly different from that of a clerk with over 200 cases on that day's calendar.

While uniformity has its benefits, the dissolution of CMP, as well as the relaxation of the technical rules, has been a net gain for the community. When we spend time waiting in court or re-filing motions, it costs our clients money. More, it takes our time and attention away from the practice of our profession.



QCBA Annual Dinner &

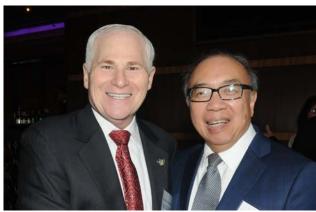
Photos by Walter Karling



Arnold Drucker, NYSBA President's Pro Bono Service Award Winner, with Greg Newman and Hilary Gingold



Brandeis Assn President Hon. Mojgan Lancman presenting incoming QCBA President with a plaque



Current Presiding Justice Alan Scheinkman and former Presiding Justice Randall Eng



Guest Speaker Hon. Alan Scheinkman addressing our attendees.



Hon. Ernest Hart giving the invocation.



Hon. Sidney Strauss swearing in incoming President Hilary Gingold.



Hon. Sidney Strauss swearing in the officers; Maria-Eleana First, Pres-Elect; Clifford M. Welden, Vice Pres; Karina Alomar, Secretary and Richard H. Lazarus, Treasurer



 $Hon. \ Sidney \ Strauss \ with \ newly \ installed \ President \ Hilary \ Gingold.$

Installation of Officers 5.3.18



Photos by Walter Karling



MC Hon. Sid Strauss welcoming Guest Speaker Hon. Alan Scheinkman, Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, 2nd Dept.



Presiding Justice Alan Scheinkman and newly inducted President, Hilary Gingold





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Hon. Sidney Strauss swearing in members of the Board of Managers.



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batteries, all manner of things made of Leo Hendrick Baekland's plastic, clothing made from synthetic fibers invented by Wallace Carothers, and photocopies from Chester Carlson's photocopying machine. Sam Walton arranged to take the credit card invented by John Biggins of the Flatbush National Bank. He was able to do this because he thought about department stores exactly opposite to the way everyone else did. A department store did not have to be downtown, it could be located out of town along President Eisenhower's Interstate highway. All matter of goods for American inventions could come to his store from warehouses also relocated along the Interstate Highway system. Sam Walton was able to figure out how to deliver most of the above-named American inventions to the ordinary American at a very reasonable price.

In 1963, Norman Borlaug prevented world starvation by greatly increasing the yield from a kernel of wheat. This became known as the "Green Revolution".

He later became a professor at Texas Agricultural & Mechanical University and perfected his techniques. Without the work of Professor Norman Borlaug, it is likely that most of the people in China, India, Pakistan, and Mexico would have starved to death. For this achievement, Professor Borlaug won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. It is not an exaggeration to say that Norman Borlaug is perhaps the most accomplished person of all time.

In 1975 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Bill Gates and Paul Allen invented and founded the Microsoft Corporation with the goal of putting a personal computer on everyone's desk. Steve Ballmer joined Microsoft in 1980. By 1985, they had moved to Bellevue, Washington and introduced the Windows operating system for personal computers.

In 1981 in New York City, Michael Bloomberg invented the Bloomberg Terminal thus putting financial information on the desks of stockbrokers all over the country immediately.

In 1994 in New York City, Jeff Bezos took Sam Walton's idea and expanded upon it such that everyone could buy all manner of goods and services using the personal computer program invented by Bill Gates, Steve Ballmer, and Paul Allen and the telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell, and the storage batteries invented by Thomas Edison. A physical store was no longer needed. The goods would magically appear on your doorstep at reasonable prices.

In 1998, in Palo Alto, California, Sergey Brin and Larry Page invented the Google information search thereby bringing all manner of public information to people immediately using Bill Gates, Steve Ballmer, and Paul Allen's Windows operating system on everyone's personal computers. This article can be fact-checked by entering any name from it in Google's search engine.

In 2004, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mark Zuckerberg invented Facebook, a communication network that now has

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Editor's Note | continued from p.13...

two billion customers all over the world.

In 2007 in Cupertino, California, Steve Jobs invented the I-phone. This is the First Amendment on steroids, making information from Google, credit card purchases, recorded music, movies, and newspapers in the palm of everyone's hand, at a moment's notice.

And so it has come to pass that the ordinary American shopping in Wal-Mart or on Amazon, is far wealthier than all of the Kings and Queens of Europe were in 1791. None of that "royalty" had access to any of the above listed dizzying array of products of the First Amendment, and the Article 1 Section 8 Powers of Congress to regulate Commerce, Immigration, Bankruptcies, and "to promote the progress of Science and useful Arts" and a Court system to regulate it all set forth in the <u>United States</u> Constitution.

III. How the United States Supreme Court is protecting the First Amendment in 2018

The First Amendment is always subject to various restrictions that American States and/or the Federal Government seek to place upon it in the name of health and safety. While our current United States Supreme Court may be divided on some subjects, the Court appears to be very united on the subject of protecting the freedoms of the First Amendment.

In Masterpiece Inc Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission 138 S.Ct 1719 (June 4, 2018), the United States Supreme Court held that a Colorado baker could not be compelled to bake a cake against his First Amendment religious principles.

In Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky 138 S. Ct. 1876, (June 14, 2018), the United States Supreme Court held that Minnesota could not prohibit political badges or buttons inside the polling place. The right to wear a political badge is a First Amendment right which is not to be compromised.

In Lozman v. City of Riviera Beach, Florida 138 S. Ct. 1945 (June 18, 2018), the United States Supreme Court held that a citizen could not be thrown out of a City Council meeting because he was exercising his First Amendment right to criticize a municipal zoning plan too loudly.

In Trump v. Hawaii 138 S. Ct. 2392 (June 26, 2018), the United States Supreme Court held that the President could ban nationals from six predominately Muslim countries, so long as the Order was not directed at the Muslim religion. Also in this opinion, the United States Supreme Court specifically overruled its improper decision in Korematsu v. United States 323 U.S 214 (1944). Detention centers based on race alone are no longer available to any Governmental Administration in the United States.

In National Institute of Family and Life Advocates v. Becerra 138 S.Ct. 2361 (June 26, 2018), the United States Supreme Court struck down a California law regulating the First Amendment speech of pregnancy centers.

In Janus v. American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees 138 S. Ct. 2448 (June 27, 2018) the United States Supreme Court held that a Labor Union member could not be compelled to contribute funds to a labor union in violation of his First Amendment right of free speech.

In Sause v. Bauer 138 S.Ct. 2561 (June 28, 2018), the United States Supreme Court held that a local police department in Louisburg, Kansas could not tell a local resident to "stop praying" while she was under investigation for a noise complaint. This violated her First Amendment rights.

It is important to understand that the First Amendment protects any kind of content of speech. When the United States Supreme Court strikes down a state law regarding a First Amendment right, or a federal law regarding a First Amendment right, they are not necessarily agreeing with what was said. That is the entire point. It doesn't matter what was said. We have the freedom to say it. And it is that freedom which has resulted in the cotton gin, the telegraph, the refrigerator, the transatlantic cable, the transcontinental railroad, the telephone, the phonograph, the electric generator, the light bulb, the dictaphone, the photoelectric cell, the solar panel, the tractor, the movie projector, the airplane, the electric stove, the storage battery, the

assembly line, the supermarket, rockets and spaceships, synthenic fibers, the photocopying machine, the credit card, the Salk vaccine, the Interstate Highway, Wal-Mart, the prevention of world starvation, the personal computer, the Bloomberg Terminal, Amazon, Google, Facebook, and the I-phone.

The idea of freedom of speech, press, and religion, was popular in colonial America. It was embodied in the laws of the several colonies. The idea was best expressed by Benjamin Franklin in 1722:

"In those wretched countries where a man can not call his tongue his own he can scarce call anything his own. Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech... without freedom of thought there can be no such thing as wisdom and no such thing a s public liberty without freedom of speech which is the right of every man." (See Benjamin Franklin, Silence Do good No. 8, 1722, reprinted in Wikipedia Benjamin Franklin, Note 154.) (emphasis added)

IV. The Solution to Climate Change

The leading scientific and governmental challenge of our time is the changing climate caused by our own wastefulness of natural resources.

The solution has perplexed the nations of the world. How can we alter the changes going on in our planet Earth to preserve human life for all in the centuries to come?

American history in high schools and colleges around the country is not properly taught. Wars are emphasized. Federal administrations are emphasized. The above listed incredible series of American inventions is spoken about only in passing. The first change necessary to solve the problem of climate change is to emphasize the above listed series of inventions in every high school and college American History class. The things that were invented in our country in a short 227 year period of time defies the imagination. It is in studying how this was done that will lead us to the solution to the problem of climate change.

Next, we must note that the most recent inventions were made possible by

Some trades are not as good as they first appear

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What's Taking so Long --Delays In Immigration Interviews

By Dev B. Viswanath, Esq. & Michael Phulwani, Esq.



Many people are wondering why they filed for the green cards or for citizenship almost a year ago and they are still waiting for an interview, when someone they knew filed back in 2015 or 2016 and it only took 4 to 6 months.

The answer is simple, IT'S USCIS DELAYS. Citizenship and green card applications are taking longer than for many years to get processed. Citizenship applications are taking more than eight months to be fully processed, which is about three times as long as they did in 2016. Some believe it is because a delay in citizenship application is a delay in Foreign Born individuals who are eligible to vote. This is important because immigrant who become citizens tend to vote democrat and so the less naturalized citizens there are, the less voters that may vote democrat in an election.

One other aspect to the delays is related to the administration's decision to begin interviewing all permanent resident applicants (including thousands of Employment Based applications that were previously not interviewed), unless there is reason to waive the interview under the discretion of USCIS. Therefore, there are thousands more interviews taking place, which in turn has increased the burden on the limited resources of USCIS.

This delay is causing many immigrants to have to wait longer to be eligible to vote or to sponsor other family members for permanent residency. The increase in naturalization applications are also affecting the delays, but more people what to become citizens today than in many years, largely due to the fact that a green card does not carry the wait or security that it once did. People used to feel secure in being solely green card holders, that they would not have to worry about their rights or liberties being invaded or taken from them. However, in more recent times,

it has become apparent that except for US citizens, everyone else is at risk. Many green card holders are not secure with just having a green card anymore because they fear the government could change the reasons for revoking a green card at anytime. The current political climate worries many green holders because they are uncertain of the future.

Under the new immigration polices military members who previously had been promised an expedited route to citizenship are now waiting at least ten months for the citizenship application process to be completed. The Trump administration had also closed immigration offices on several military bases.

Unaccompanied minors are also having a difficult time obtaining their green cards because officials have increased scrutiny of their applications. The increase in the number of applicants for naturalization and the increased scrutiny on applications is a major contribution for all of the delays.

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the invention-friendly environment of universities. Rocket science and spacecraft were invented in 1926 by Robert Goddard at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. The Salk vaccine against the dread disease polio was invented by Dr. Jonas Salk at the University of Pittsburgh in 1955. Norman Borlaug prevented world starvation through his experiments at Texas A & M University in the 1960s. In the 1970s Bill Gates and Steve Ballmer hatched their ideas for Microsoft Corporation at Harvard University. In the 1990s Sergey Brin and Larry Page came up with the idea for Google at Stanford University, named for Leland Stanford, one of the founders of transcontinental railroad. Mark Zuckerberg came up with the idea for Facebook while a student at Harvard University in the early 2000s.

In order to solve the problem of climate change, Clark University, the University of Pittsburgh, Texas A & M University, Stanford University, and Harvard University must enter into a competition with each other and with the nation's other 5300 plus Colleges and Universities. Each must compete with each other to seek out the most enthusiastic and creative high school students to come up with the next set of ideas to match or surpass all of the American inventors that have gone before.

These spawning grounds for recent inventions guide the way towards the solution to the problem of climate change. Students at the nation's universities are chosen for their high school grades and scores on standardized tests. This is the wrong approach. University administrators should be searching at high school science fairs and high school student council meetings for the most talented young scientists and negotiators. The problem of climate change is a problem of science and a problem of negotiation among nations. Students with the enthusiasm and creativity needed to volunteer for high school science fairs and student councils are the people who must be recruited. It is those students who will ultimately solve the problem of climate change given the right university environment in which to perfect their skills and come up with their new ideas.

University administrators should travel the country and the world seeking out the most enthusiastic and creative science fair and student council high school participants. High school grades and test scores reflect an ability to regurgitate information. That will not solve climate change.

The enthusiasm and creativity of Eli Whitney, Samuel F.B. Morse, Leonard Gale, Dr. John Gorrie, Cyrus Field, Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins, Charles Crocker, George Brayton, Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison, Charles Tainter, Charles Fritts, John Froelich, Wilbur and Orville Wright, Lloyd Groff Copeman, Leo Hendrik Baekland, Henry Ford, Clarence Saunders, Robert Goddard, Wallace Carothers, Chester Carlson, John Biggins, Dr. Jonas Salk, President Dwight Eisenhower, Sam Walton, Norman Borlaug, Bill Gates, Steve Ballmer, Paul Allen, Michael Bloomberg, Jeff Bezos, Sergey Brin, Larry Page, Mark Zuckerberg, and Steve Jobs is what is needed to solve the problem of global climate change.

All of these men came to their profession as inventors without national encouragement.

Imagine if we provide national encouragement in the form of university administrators with scholarship money looking for <u>creative and enthusiastic</u> high school students - what will happen then? All of these inventors were white men. What if we look for people of color and women to join this list? Won't it be expanded? Won't there be many more ideas? What if we placed as much effort in recruiting <u>enthusiastic and creative science fair and student council participants</u> as we do in recruiting athletes? What will happen then?

The answer is apparent: We will have many more people like the list above. We will have many more solutions to the problem of climate change.

It has been said that the United States is the "indispensable nation". That is not entirely accurate. The United States constitutes the world's imagination.

Once we realize that fact, we can capitalize on finding our most <u>enthusiastic</u> and <u>imaginative</u> people both domestic and foreign, and supporting them so they can

solve the problem of climate change.

Looked at in this way, our country simply takes your breath away. There has been no country in the history of time with this level of human accomplishment. This can be seen with the time line of inventions listed above. We are now likely to explode with imagination if only we encourage it.

Every one of our 5300 plus Colleges and Universities, led by Clark University (Rocketry), the University of Pittsburgh (the Salk vaccine), Texas A & M University (increased crop yields), Stanford University (Google), and Harvard University (Microsoft, Facebook) should have a brand new Institute of Innovation and Negotiation to recruit students to invent and negotiate the solution to world-wide climate change and to build on all the imagination of the past 227 years of American life described in this article.

If we embrace our role as the world's imagination, there is no problem we cannot solve. Look at what has been accomplished so far, since those 45 fateful words were adopted as the philosophical basis of our society just 227 years ago. No one in 1791 could have even remotely imagined what has been accomplished since then.

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Jamaica Based Foundation Funds Free SAT Programs for Students this Fall



Thanks to the Jay and Sylvia Sobhraj Foundation (JSSF), America Sevashram Sangha Ashram, and Zara Realty, Richmond Hill and Jamaica-based students will be eligible for free SAT prep classes this Fall.

Together, the three organizations are teaming up to support lo-

Classes will be sponsored by the Jay and Sylvia Sobhraj Foundation, a foundation that donates to a plethora of philanthropic initiatives from Queens, NYC to Guyana.

This past year, The JSSF which has previously donated over \$400,000 to Guyana University for a state-of-the-art behavioral study center.

"Giving back to the community is vitally important to our organization" Jay Sobhraj stated.

Each year, over a million students take the SAT college placement exam. Prep classes are vital to obtaining a high SAT score.

The sessions will be taught by NYC certified teachers and be held in air-conditioned classrooms. These classes are totally free and early registration has already begun. Classes begin on September 15th and take place every Saturday until December 15th.

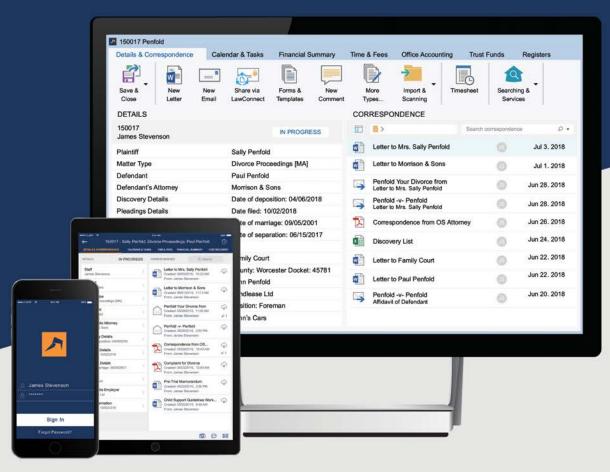
"It is our goal to give students in our community as many educational opportunities as we can. We've made a commitment to support our community and the students who live in it," said Jay Sobhraj, head of the foundation.

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