

IN THE  
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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AMICUS CURIE  
IN FAVOR OF  
O CENTRO ESPIRITA UNIAO DO VEGETAL  
DOCKET #04-1084

**APPENDIX A**

**AFFIDAVIT-1**

**Rev. Joan Bello**  
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**Oneonta, New York 13820**  
**(607) 263-5894**  
**<http://www.benefitsofmarijuana.com>**

Affidavit

I, Joan Bellow, am a resident of the State of New York. My mailing address is POB 623, Oneonta, New York 13820. My date of Birth is 7/29/42. Any other contact information is listed on the signature line below.

I affirm under penalty of perjury as defined in the laws of the United States and the State of Iowa that the following Affidavit is true and complete to the best of my ability.

I am making this statement for the purpose of notifying the Supreme Court of the United States of **Plain Errors** of fact and law contained in the decisions under review by this Court in Gonzalez vs. O Centro Espirita Uniao Do Vegetal, docket Number 04-1084 as set forth in the Amicus Curie Brief to which this Affidavit is attached.

I am making this statement for the purpose of supporting the O Centro Espirita Uniao Do Vegetal Church in the decisions of the lower courts that interpret the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 - 42 U.S.C. sec. 2000bb et al - to mean that a sincere act of religious exercise that is substantially burdened by a federal law must be justified at trial by government proofs of the facts of a threat to public health and safety of such magnitude as to support a compelling interest on the part of government to regulate the act of religious exercise.

Further, I support the interpretation of RFRA that is applied to the O Centro Espirita Uniao Do Vegetal Church to mean that the government must make the fact proofs that the least restrictive means of regulation has been used to regulate the sincere act of religious exercise that is found to cause a compelling interest on the part of government to regulate it.

Further, I support the interpretation of RFRA to mean that RFRA applies to the drug laws, provides a means of exemption from the drug laws for sincere religious exercise, and provides exemptions from international treaties affirmed by the United States Senate and otherwise effective upon my actions as a citizen of the State of New York, member of the United States of America.

I now state for the record under penalty of perjury that:

I sincerely use Cannabis Sacrament in my religious exercise.

I am substantially burdened by the federal drug laws that restrict or prohibit my growing, possession, use, transfer and acquisition of cannabis, commonly known as marijuana, for my sincere religious exercise.

I have found that my use of Cannabis Sacrament enables me to come to a greater understanding of my status as a human being faced with decisions about the morality of my acts and the acts of others.

I have found that my use of Cannabis Sacrament enables me to exert greater control over my human nature in body, spirit, psychology, family interaction, social interaction, economic interaction, political interaction, community interaction, and my fundamental interaction with the Creator of All.

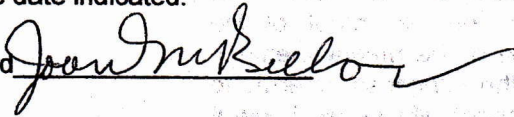
Further I wish to inform this Court that the benefits of marijuana on the developing spirit can be demonstrated through the "science of vibration" which is the ancient science of Divinity as taught and practiced in the India-of-old (still in existence after a five thousand year legacy and which has been adapted to various more modern religious groups and sects that appreciate the spiritual benefits of marijuana) and that I have personally experienced those beneficial effects and find them necessary for my religious practice. Let it be known that the human being is composed of body, mind and soul and that each component of being human can be explained via the methods of modern objective science. While there is concrete proof of the physicality of the body, inferential recognition of the mental element, there is without doubt also the existence of the livingness, referred to as the spirit, which when it is no longer present, life as we know it ends. The spirit or individually contained soul of each person may or may not be apparent to the mental stance of objective science, however, all religious thought recognizes the soul as the life-giving aspect of human existence. Surely no one would deny the right of every citizen of the earth to advance his / her soul-awareness to the point of approaching the Divinity within, if that is, in fact, a person's goal, and there is no harm to either the community at large or the person. Whereas those who realize the spiritual benefits of marijuana (have been measurably affected by the vibrational kernel of the marijuana plant) - all offer similar explanations of their enhanced experience as well as manifesting noticeable similarities in less aggressive and self-centered behaviors; all state, unequivocally that marijuana expands their consciousness to the point of being able to ascertain the Divine, if only momentarily, nevertheless those moments remain indelibly imprinted on their entire being and those moments can be continually attained to by the utilization of the marijuana plant and each moment of Divine realization is of utmost importance - have an inalienable right to utilize the natural substance that advances their understanding of a Supreme Power, and further aids those who are of the Marijuana Faith, to work toward becoming what may be referred to as "a better person," specifically dealing with the possible evolution of the human being toward a less selfish, more creative, more compassionate, less angry, more tolerant perspective. Since marijuana can and has been shown, without doubt to calm the mind, by numerous studies that measure scientifically (objectively) both the type and speed of brain waves which are experienced subjectively as both calming and illuminating, there can be no argument, according to all the religions of the world which calls for one-pointed, serene, concentration, *such as in prayer*, that to calm the mind via less distractedness is the first and most necessary step that leads to the unfolding of That Which is Beyond thought. Marijuana is one such natural substance being utilized around the world by millions of believers who are being burdened unnecessarily by the prohibition of their sacrament even though cannabis is not only compatible but actually healthful to both the human body and its mental component (in direct contradiction to the intentional misinformation that has been

promulgated concerning the effects of marijuana via those irreligious materially-oriented persons who fear that the soul-enhancing effects of marijuana may be somehow detrimental to their own gain) via the Human Cannabinoid System, discovered through objective science over the last decades, but which has been intuitively recognized and honored and revered by those millions of people, throughout the world of the marijuana faith – in these present times and including thousands of years of historical worship.

I respectfully request that the Supreme Court of the United States affirm the interpretation of RFRA made in the **Bauer and O Centro** cases.

I affirm under penalty of perjury that above made statement is true and complete to the best of my ability as indicated by my signature below on the date indicated.

Signed



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