

SCHONBRUN DESIMONE SEPLow HARRIS & HOFFMAN LLP

Benjamin Schonbrun
V. James DeSimone
Michael D. Seplow
Wilmer J. Harris
Paul L. Hoffman
Michael S. Morrison
K. Arianne Jordan
Do Hyung Kim
Peggy Roman-Jacobson

723 Ocean Front Walk
Venice, California 90291
(310) 396-0731 (310) 399-7040 (fax)
www.sdshh.com

Of Counsel
Erwin Chernerinsky*
* Illinois and Dist. Columbia

Pasadena Office
414 South Marengo Ave.
Pasadena, California 91101
(626) 440-5969
(626) 449-4417 (fax)

Press advisory/Press Conference

**Contact: John Raphling 310-823-4620
Paul Hoffman 310-396-0731**

Venice Surfer Sues LAPD for Unprovoked Pepper Spray Attack; Pattern of Constitutional Violations Alleged

Gregory Falk will file a lawsuit in federal court this morning for violation of his constitutional rights. Mr. Falk and his attorneys John Raphling and Paul Hoffman will hold a press conference at 11:00AM at 723 Ocean Front Walk in Venice.

The lawsuit arises out of an incident on July 27, 2006, in Venice in which Falk was assaulted and pepper sprayed by LAPD officers without provocation. Falk was accused by lifeguards of surfing off the coast of Venice without permission. The officers called to the scene immediately, without discussing the situation with Falk, assaulted him, placed him in handcuffs and then summarily punished him by subjecting him to pepper spray in his eyes. Falk brings the lawsuit in the wake of Police Chief Bratton's November 21st announcement that the LAPD actions in a highly publicized February 2005 pepper spray incident were within policy.

"This lawsuit is intended to put an end to this form of frontier justice imposed by LAPD officers against defenseless people," said Paul Hoffman, one of the attorneys for Falk. "There is no excuse for using pepper spray against a suspect already in handcuffs and offering no resistance." "Chief Bratton has made it clear that we cannot trust him to restrain unnecessary police violence," stated John Raphling, another of Mr. Falk's attorneys. "In fact, he seems to be allowing such attacks as official LAPD policy."

"I am bringing this lawsuit to expose a pattern of abuse that has to stop. I have always believed that police officers were there to help resolve disputes and when I asked them to resolve this dispute I was thrown up against a car, punched, handcuffed and pepper sprayed and then held in jail for many hours before I was freed and never charged with any crime. This kind of police behavior has to stop," stated Gregory Falk

The complaint as filed will be posted at www.sdshh.com and may be obtained from Paul Hoffman at hoffpaul@aol.com. Mr. Falk will be available at the press conference for interviews.