



Alan M. Feldman, Esq.
Chancellor

1845 Walnut Street, 25th Floor • Philadelphia, PA 19103
Phone: 215-567-8300 • Fax: 215-567-8333 • E-mail: afeldman@feldmanshepherd.com

August 23, 2006

VIA FAX

Independence National Historical Park
Attn: EA Review of Security Project
143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Re: Security Fence on Independence Square

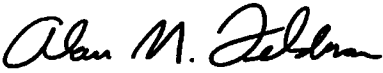
Dear Sir or Madam:

As Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, I write to offer my comments with respect to the National Park Service's proposal to erect a six-to-seven-foot high security fence through Independence Square. Particularly in Philadelphia, the birthplace of our freedoms and the place where our devotion to the rule of law originated, the notion of fencing off from public view the building where the Declaration of Independence was signed and the Constitution was adopted is a dreadful idea which should be abandoned. While security for treasured historical sites like Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell is necessary, it is vitally important that a proper balance be struck between the protection of property and visitors, and the keen interest all Americans have in an opportunity to see and experience these extraordinary historical monuments without fences, security lines and metal detectors.

We are concerned that increasing already-formidable security measures will make Independence Square even less accessible to the public. Such an outcome is surely at odds with the importance of these historical shrines, which are icons of our free and open society. We do not need a cure which is worse than the disease.

The Philadelphia Bar Association joins with The Philadelphia Inquirer and other civic organizations in urging the National Park Service to take a fresh look at security around Independence Hall, with an eye toward increasing, not reducing, access to this enormously important historical site.

Very truly yours,


Alan M. Feldman

cc: Editor, The Philadelphia Inquirer

1101 Market Street • 11th Floor • Philadelphia, PA 19107-2911
Phone: 215-238-6300 • Fax: 215-238-1159 • www.philadelphiabar.org

YOUR PARTNER FOR JUSTICE