



**ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE
GREATER CHICAGO • UPPER MIDWEST REGION**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TO: **Assignment Editor**

CONTACT: **Jenna Benn**
312-782-4909, Cell: 347-225-6664

jbenn@adl.org

**Anti-Defamation League Urges Court to Preserve the Rights of Individuals
Who Stand up to Discrimination and Bigotry**

February 13, 2008...The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) today filed a friend of the court brief in Cook County Circuit Court in support of a woman who sought to display a mezuzah on the doorpost of her condominium. The brief urged the Court to protect the woman, Debra Gassman, from a case filed against her by the condominium association in retaliation for her good faith efforts to exercise her religious liberty.

Lonnie Nasatir, Regional Director, and Michael Rubenstein, Regional Board Chair, issued the following statement:

"This case is about protecting the right of individuals to bring legitimate claims of religious discrimination.

Debra Gassman's determination to fight for her right to display her mezuzah on the doorpost of her condominium led directly to a change in the law, which ADL initiated, prohibiting condominium associations from interfering with mandatory religious practices of residents.

Unfortunately, her actions have also led to a retaliatory lawsuit against her filed by the condominium association."

ADL's amicus brief urges the court to dismiss the retaliatory lawsuit, asserting that Ms. Gassman's actions were protected by the Illinois Citizen Participation Act. This new law intended to ensure that individuals will not be intimidated by the threat of retaliatory litigation from bringing legitimate challenges to discriminatory practices.

The brief was authored on behalf of ADL by the law firm Greenberg Traurig LLP.

For more information please contact Jenna Benn, Assistant Director at jbenn@adl.org.

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world's leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.