

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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<http://www.rethinkingpsychiatry.org/second-annual-rethinking-psychiatry-symposium-may-11th-12th/>

**Do psychiatric patients have the right to refuse treatment?**

*Attorney James Gottstein to be keynote speaker for Rethinking Psychiatry symposium*

**PORTLAND, OREGON, MAY 3, 2012** - Rethinking Psychiatry, a local group that is part of a larger movement to reform mental health care, will hold its second annual symposium on May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012. "Building on the success of our 2011 symposium, Rethinking Psychiatry is continuing to foster collaboration and build community in the mental health arena", says Marcia Meyers, lead organizer for the event. Rethinking Psychiatry's mission is to create a more hopeful, humane and effective mental healthcare model.

The symposium begins Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, with keynote speaker, Jim Gottstein, and a panel of professionals and peers speaking on the current issues of forced medication in the name of mental health care, and the national movement to create a mental health care system that is more holistic effective and humane. Gottstein is co-founder of the PsychRights Law Project for Psychiatric Rights, and is credited with winning four important Alaska Supreme Court cases involving psychiatric patient rights.



Saturday, the symposium continues with a series of presentations and displays by local groups featuring mental health care treatment alternatives and community resources. James Gottstein will speak on mental health care rights in Oregon.

Meyers and other organizers for the event expect the audience at the 2012 Symposium to include healthcare providers, attorneys, policymakers, mental health consumers, and students.

**Rethinking Psychiatry 2012 Symposium**

**Friday, May 11, 7:00 to 9:00pm**

***"Psychiatric Drugs, Forced Medication, and Children"***

**Keynote speaker, James Gottstein, founder of PsychRights Law Project for Psychiatric Rights.**

**Followed by panel discussion with Gottstein and local professionals and peers**

**Saturday, May 12, 8:00am to 5:00pm**

***"Renaming and Reclaiming Our Mental Health Story: Using Our Personal Journeys, Experiences and Legal Rights"***

**First Unitarian Church – Main Street Sanctuary**

**1101 SW 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Portland, Oregon**

**\$5-\$20 donation requested. No one turned away for lack of funds.**

## **ABOUT JAMES GOTTSTEIN**

[www.PsychRights.org](http://www.PsychRights.org)

James Gottstein has won four important Alaska Supreme Court decisions. In June of 2006, the Alaska Supreme Court decided [Myers v. Alaska Psychiatric Institute](#), which ruled Alaska's forced drugging procedures unconstitutional. [Myers](#) has been called "[the most important State Supreme Court decision](#)" on forced drugging in 20 years.

Mr. Gottstein is most known around the US and internationally for subpoenaing and releasing the [Zyprexa Papers](#) in late 2006, resulting in a series of [New York Times articles](#) and an [editorial](#) calling for a Congressional investigation. In January of 2009, Eli Lilly pled guilty and agreed to pay \$1.4 Billion in civil and criminal fines for the activities revealed by the [Zyprexa Papers](#).

Since late 2002, Mr. Gottstein has devoted the bulk of his time *pro bono* to the Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights) whose mission is to mount a strategic litigation campaign against forced psychiatric drugging and electroshock across the United States.

## **ABOUT RETHINKING PSYCHIATRY**

Rethinking Psychiatry is a project of the Economic Justice Action Group of the First Unitarian Church.

**Mission Statement:** Mental health disorder labels often act as a cover for societal and situational problems. This paradigm is encouraged and exacerbated by powerful financial interests. By providing a safe, respectful and inclusive space for the sharing of the wealth of information, tools and experiences available to us all in meeting the challenges of mental, emotional and spiritual wellness, Rethinking Psychiatry is creating a more hopeful, humane and effective mental health care model.