

# The MacArthur Justice Center

University of Chicago  
Law School  
1111 East 60<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60637

phone 773.753.4405  
fax 773.702.0771

*Legal Director*  
Locke E. Bowman  
773.702.0349  
[locke\\_bowman@law.uchicago.edu](mailto:locke_bowman@law.uchicago.edu)

*Visiting Lecturer and Trial Attorney*  
Joseph Margulies  
773.702.9560  
[jmarguli@law.uchicago.edu](mailto:jmarguli@law.uchicago.edu)

*Of Counsel*  
Jean Maclean Snyder  
773.285.5100  
[snyder@uchicago.edu](mailto:snyder@uchicago.edu)

*Board of Directors*  
Solange MacArthur  
John R. MacArthur  
James Liggett

For immediate release: March 28, 2005

For more information: Nora Ferrell or Ambar Mentor  
Valerie Denney Communications  
312-408-2580, 773-510-4819 (cell)

Joseph Margulies  
MacArthur Justice Center  
763-245-8048 (cell)

## **EXPERT SPOKESPERSON ADVISORY**

### **Supreme Court Hears Arguments Today in Case Involving Detention of Foreigners**

***Chicago Lawyer Files Friend of the Court Brief on Behalf of  
Ambassador Held During Iran Hostage Crisis and Midnight Express Author  
Held for Five Years in a Turkish Prison***

**What:** Oral arguments will be heard today by the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Medellín v. Dretke*. Jose Ernesto Medellín is a Mexican national on Texas' death row whose rights under Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations were violated by Texas authorities. This treaty provides important safeguards to people imprisoned in a foreign country.

**When: TODAY, Monday, March 28**

**Who:** **Joseph Margulies**, attorney at the MacArthur Justice Center at the University of Chicago, filed an amicus brief on behalf of U.S. citizens who have benefited from this same treaty when they were detained overseas. Some of those represented in the amicus brief include:

- **Ambassador L. Bruce Laingen**, Charge d' Affaires of the American Embassy in Iran when he was held as a hostage during the Iran Hostage crisis for more than one year.
- **Billy Hayes**, filmmaker and author who spent five years in a Turkish prison during the 1970s, the subject of Hayes' book *Midnight Express*, which was made into a feature film by the same name.

-more-

**Why:** The United States played a leading role in creating Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations which ensures consular assistance to citizens traveling or living abroad who find themselves ensnared in the criminal justice system of a foreign country. If foreign prisoners held in the U.S. are not given the rights guaranteed by this significant international treaty, U.S. citizens who find themselves in similar predicaments could be in grave danger when their rights are disregarded.

####