

Falwell wins website suit, now sets sites on building 'army of God'

Televangelist opens law school to train lawyers how to battle gay issues

by Justin Bergman and Chris Kahn

RICHMOND, Va. — A federal judge has ruled that a gay activist must stop using a variation of the Rev. Jerry Falwell's name in the address for a website critical of the conservative television evangelist.

In a ruling publicly released, U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton in Alexandria said the domain name for the site, fallwell.com, was "nearly identical" to the registered trademark "Jerry Falwell" name and was likely to be confusing to Internet surfers.

Hilton said the operator of the site, Christopher Lamparello of New York, intended to divert people from the Jerry Falwell Ministries' website "with the direct intent to tarnish or disparage" Falwell. He also ruled that Lamparello sought to make a profit by selling a book on the site.

Lamparello's site criticizes Falwell's views against homosexuality and includes a disclaimer that reads, "This website is not affiliated with Jerry Falwell Ministries."

Last year, an Illinois man gave up the domain names jerryfalwell.com and jerryfallwell.com after Falwell threatened to sue him in federal court. Those domain names now link to Jerry Falwell Ministries' website.

Complaints have already been filed



Falwell on new law school: 'We'll be as far to the right as Harvard is to the left.'

against Falwell accusing him of violating campaign finance laws by endorsing President George W. Bush and soliciting funds for a conservative political action committee on his ministries' website.

After his recent victory, Falwell is apparently celebrating with the opening of a law school he hopes will train a generation of attorneys who will fight for conservative causes.

"We want to infiltrate the culture with men and women of God who are skilled in the legal profession," said Falwell. "We'll be as far to the right as Harvard is to the left."

Graduates of the law school — part of Falwell's Liberty University in Lynchburg, which is affiliated with his Baptist ministry

— could tackle such issues as gay marriage and abortion rights, Falwell said. Classes began Aug. 23 for the first-year class of 61 law students.

Classroom lectures and discussions will fuse the teachings of the Bible with the U.S. Constitution, stressing the connections between faith, law and morality, said law school Dean Bruce Green, who has experience in civil liberties litigation.

Joe Conn, a spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said the law school is part of a crusade by Falwell to get the government to carry out his religious agenda.

"When Falwell talks about using the legal system to advance his personal religious beliefs, I get a whiff of the Taliban," Conn said. "This is a very diverse country with many different religious beliefs, and when you set up a law school to try to get the government and legal system to conform to only one of them, you're leaving everybody else out."

In addition to his law school, Falwell has announced a series of seminars to train conservative pastors on what some critics call methods of circumventing federal tax laws to use their pulpits to encourage congregations to vote against gay positive politicians this November.

This article previously appeared on 365gay.com.

Discover
1510
uncommon home antiques



fifteen ten antiques
1510 central ave.
charlotte, NC 28205
phone: 704.342.9005
www.1510-antiques.com
email: info@1510-antiques.com

available today

with style to spare

affordable city living

Priced at just \$124,900 with no cash out-of-pocket financing available, that's ZERO cash, you can live just 6 minutes from Uptown. AND get Silestone® counter tops, high-end stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors, crown moulding, wood blinds and custom upgrades and features you simply won't find anywhere else at this price.

williamsburg on commonwealth

TOWNHOME CONDOMINIUMS

704.531.1943

Information Center on Commonwealth just North of Briar Creek

