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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Bible Camp Files Suit Against Oneida County and Town of Woodboro
Religious facility banned throughout Town

On March 10, 2010, Storzer & Greene client Eagle Cove Camp & Conference Center, along with Arthur G. Jaros, Jr., Wesley A. Jaros, and Randall S. Jaros, filed suit against the County of Oneida, its Board of Adjustment, and the Town of Woodboro, challenging laws that prohibit their planned year-round Bible Camp on 34 acres fronting Squash Lake in Woodboro. The lawsuit is joined by the Crescent Lake Bible Fellowship, which intends to operate the Bible Camp. The County and Town's laws permit many other assembly and institutional uses in the Town, such as schools, libraries, museums, community living arrangements, but prohibit the Bible Camp entirely from the jurisdiction. Petitions for rezoning and for a conditional use permit to operate the Bible Camp were also denied.

The Complaint states that the County denied the Camp's petition for rezoning based on its position in 2006 that the Jaroses could achieve "most or all of their stated objectives" under current zoning – which led them to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars and several years applying for a conditional use permit for a use that the County decided this year was not permissible.

"Christian Bible camp ministries are a vital form of religious exercise, separate and distinct from organized churches," states the Camp in its Complaint. Religious land uses are protected from undue burdens, discrimination and arbitrary treatment under the federal and state constitutions, as well as the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000. Since "an important aspect of the Bible Camp will be to specifically minister to youth suffering from serious disabling medical conditions that preclude them from attending many other established Bible camps," it also raises claims under the federal Americans With Disabilities and Rehabilitation Acts.

"Religious exercise does not only take place in church," said Roman P. Storzer, attorney for the Camp. "Congress specifically passed RLUIPA to protect 'any exercise of religion,' whether it happens in a church, school, home or a Bible Camp. It is not the government's job to tell believers how and where they may worship."

RLUIPA was passed by Congress ten years ago to prevent discrimination against religious institutions in land use regulation. The attorneys of Storzer and Greene, P.L.L.C. have represented scores of churches, temples, mosques and synagogues in land use conflicts from Hawaii to Florida. Storzer has been described by the Religion Newswriters Association as "one of the country's most experienced litigators" in religious land use law, and has successfully represented Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Native American, Sikh and other religious organizations in RLUIPA and First Amendment cases throughout the nation.

The Complaint will be available at <http://www.storzerandgreene.com/images/ECC.pdf> or upon request.