



LIMELIGHT CINEMA GROUP PRESENTS

BEGGING FOR BILLIONAIRES

The Attack on Property Rights in America

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Note: Full press kit available upon request. See trailer at www.beggingforbillionaires.com. An mp4 trailer is available for posting, or link to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ywp0xiCfBP4>.

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival slates World Premiere of eminent domain documentary *Begging for Billionaires: The Attack on Property Rights in America* to open “Best of Fest” week

Long-awaited public screening of the controversial “Begging for Billionaires: The Attack on Property Rights in America” slated for 3 p.m., Saturday, May 2, at the Oak Street Cinema, 309 Oak St. SE in Minneapolis, Minn.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.—More than nine years in the making, the independent film “Begging For Billionaires: The Attack on Property Rights in America” has been selected as a “Best of Fest” feature by the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival. The screening is slated for 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at the Oak Street Cinema in Minneapolis and will double as the film’s world premiere. Tickets for the event are available at www.beggingforbillionaires.com or at www.mnfilmarts.org

The premiere will include post-show commentaries from national property rights advocates, eminent domain attorneys, grass roots activists and journalists. Director Philip Klein and Editor Daniel Polsfuss will also be on hand, along those whose personal stories are told in the film. A post-screening celebration will follow. Details will be available in a forthcoming news release.

The premiere is being sponsored Reason Magazine and Grand Central Publishing, publishers of Jeff Benedict’s “Little Pink House: A True Story of Defiance and Courage,” described as “One woman’s historic battle against eminent domain.” The book chronicles Suzette Kelo’s experiences before and after she lost her cherished cottage after the Supreme Court legalized the use of eminent domain for private, commercial development. Other key sponsors are the Americans for Prosperity Foundation and the American Property Coalition.

About Begging for Billionaires

In 2005, a divided U.S. Supreme Court gave city governments the authority to take private homes and businesses by eminent domain and transfer ownership to private developers for the purpose of building things like shopping centers, corporate office towers, luxury condominiums and professional sports arenas. According the court’s decision in *Kelo v City of New London*, the community economic development private projects are now considered “public use” under the 5th Amendment’s “takings clause.” The Court’s ruling – which argues that community “economic development” supersedes a citizen’s or business’s constitutional property rights – sparked public outrage in some circles and was broadly lambasted as a gross misinterpretation of the constitution.

Through a mix of guerrilla journalism, expert interviews, and the stories of victims; *Begging For Billionaires* reveals the fallout of the Kelo case, exposing how city governments brazenly seize property after property from the powerless and give it to the powerful for the pettiest of non-essential economic development projects, many

of which are subsidized with taxpayer money. Meanwhile, poor and disadvantaged families are forced from their homes. Everyday citizens watch helplessly as their family histories are bulldozed to smithereens. In some cases, homeowners scramble to save their life's possessions as demolition crews pulverize the walls around them, and Centuries-old neighborhoods are wiped from existence despite rich histories and beautifully maintained homes. Begging for Billionaires begs the question: are we losing sight of the balance between individual property rights and those of the community?

Begging for Billionaires begs the question: are we losing sight of the balance between individual property rights and community economic development?

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