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“Smoking gun” document confirms the Jois Foundation was teaching Ashtanga yoga at EUSD.

SAN DIEGO, CA — A 2013 **Ashtanga Yoga Confluence** conference seminar (*See* attached at page 4 of 10) contradicts the sworn testimony of Encinitas Union School District officials and employees given under oath and subject to the penalty of perjury during the recent trial of the *Sedlock v. Baird* case.

On March 2, 2013, at the Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa in San Diego, Jois Foundation representatives, including Eugene Ruffin and Jen Brown with special guest Manju Jois, son of the deceased Sri K Pattabhi Jois (also known as “guruji”), led a seminar entitled “**Teaching Ashtanga Yoga to Children.**” The Ashtanga Confluence schedule acknowledges that it was PK Jois’ “dream” to teach Ashtanga in the schools. The seminar included a “short demonstration with children from the Encinitas School Union [sic] District Elementary Schools . . .” Jen Brown, who teaches yoga to children at a EUSD school is listed along with Erin Cooney as “Jois Foundation teachers.”

This is significant because Jen Brown denied under oath during trial that she was a Jois Foundation teacher or that she was currently teaching Ashtanga to EUSD children, stating that a Jois Yoga website indicating she worked for the Jois Foundation and taught Ashtanga yoga at EUSD was a “typo.” Yet during the last day of testimony Assistant Superintendent Miyashiro contradicted her testimony stating that Brown does work for the Jois Foundation one day a week, but that he doesn’t know what she does for Jois.

Even more important is the fact that EUSD officials testified under oath that in spite of the Jois-EUSD grant documents’ requirement that the “core foundation” of EUSD’s program was “Ashtanga yoga” with teachers trained and certified by Jois, that EUSD was actually teaching a different form of yoga it called “EUSD yoga” at the trial. “I have one question for EUSD,” stated Dean Broyles. “If EUSD was teaching its children ‘EUSD yoga,’ how did EUSD students learn Ashtanga yoga proficiently enough to be a part of a Jois Foundation seminar in March 2013 demonstrating how to teach Ashtanga yoga to children in the public schools? The fact is that the grant documents explicitly required EUSD to teach Ashtanga yoga and in fact EUSD has been teaching Ashtanga yoga the entire time, notwithstanding its material misrepresentations to the contrary.”

Unfortunately, NCLP attorneys did not have this documentation available to them when Jen Brown was on the stand subject to cross examination. Judge John S. Meyer did not allow NCLP attorneys to question EUSD Assistant Superintendent David Myashiro about it on the last day of trial testimony because Myashiro testified that he knew nothing about the Jois Ashtanga seminar involving EUSD teachers and EUSD students.

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