## Declaration of Stephen A. Brady

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the Bible.

- I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:
- I teach twelfth graders English and European Literature at Balboa High School in San Francisco. I always also teach two or three English classes in another grade level. I am now completing my sixth year teaching, five years of which I have spent teaching at Balboa. I hold a preliminary single subject teaching credential, given by the State of California, which I will need to renew in September 2002.
  - example, the textbooks available for senior English classes were badly out of date and the school did not even have enough of them for all the students. In addition, I did not have enough of what is called "trade" books for all my students. Trade books are any books that are not textbooks (including novels, dramas, poetry anthologies, short story anthologies, biographies, autobiographies, and the like). We only just started getting sufficient numbers of trade books at the school during the 1999-2000 school year. Because I did not have enough books for my students before this school year, I illegally made photocopies, as did many teachers, so my students could have materials to read for class. I felt the ethics of educating students without sufficient resources outweighed copyright infringement. For example, during the second or third year I taught at Balboa, I made photocopies of five books of the Bible to teach as literature and all of the short story *Heart of Darkness* so my students could read them for class. I had about a dozen copies of *Heart of Darkness* available to me through the Book Room, but of course I needed class sets -- about 50 to 100 -- for my students. I finally have copies of *Heart Of Darkness* this year so I don't need those anymore but I still need and therefore use photocopies of
    - 4. I am now completing my second year as the chair of the English department at

- 1 Balboa High. As department chair, I have fought very hard to get textbooks and trade books for
- 2 our students. I worked with Assistant Principals Ted Barone and Gilbert Chung to find money
- 3 for books for our students. Gilbert Chung was able to get State monies to purchase a sufficient
- 4 quantity of textbooks for all grade levels. At first however Ted Barone could not find trade book
- 5 money in the school budget or the district's, so we finally used the Comprehensive School
- 6 Reform Demonstration (CSRD) Program grant. Through that CSRD grant, I obtained close to
- 7 \$100,000 for books for Balboa, and now we have begun to purchase trade books for the English
- 8 department -- despite some petty school politics that impeded this progress -- if we are truly
- 9 indeed going to compete with genuinely academic high schools in the State (like Lowell).
- I find it much easier to teach this year now that we have a better quantity of books
- 11 albeit not absolutely sufficient for the students. The books allow me to give the kids some
- 12 dignity. It is clear to me from watching my students that kids experience a difference between
- 13 having books and having only photocopies of books. I see that the kids take their education a
- 14 little bit more seriously when they work from books rather than from photocopies. The kids
- 15 phrase it as more "ghetto" to have photocopies than to have books; I can think of at least a dozen
- 16 kids who've used the word "ghetto" to describe using photocopies of books. The books also help
- me pedagogically: I can go to a teacher's edition of a book and readily find material to help me
- 18 teach, without having to go to sources such as the library or my old college notes or the internet
- 19 to find material explaining what a particular passage in Canterbury Tales means or supporting an
- 20 interpretation of a footnote in a text.
- 21 6. Balboa has had extremely high teacher turnover during the six years I've been
- 22 teaching there, and also before I came. I started teaching at Balboa the year the school went
- 23 through district "reconstitution," which means that almost all of the teachers and administrators
- 24 who had been teaching at the school were required to leave and I and other new teachers and new
- administrators came to the campus to replace them. During that first year, we had an almost
- entirely new staff at the school. We had no sense of experience and we had literally no tenured

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- 1 teachers on staff. For every year since that year, we have turned over about a third or more of the
- 2 teachers at the school. That high teacher turnover rate has a horrific impact on kids because of
- 3 the disruption in continuity. As a result of the teacher turnover and school reconstitution, I am
- 4 considered a veteran teacher at the school, even though I only have six years of experience
- 5 teaching. It is my opinion that reconstitution poorly served the kids because all kids deserve at
- 6 least a core of trained and experienced teachers at their school.
- 7. I stay teaching at Balboa because I am part of the community now and because
- 8 these kids are great kids. Many of them are brilliant, but they have so many odds against them. I
- 9 grew up poor myself and I believe it is time for me to give something back, so I stay. But I need
- more money, and I know all teachers in San Francisco do. I have to hold a second job, on top of
- my teaching job, just to make ends meet. The most important thing that would keep teachers at
- 12 schools longer is better pay. In addition to money, schools that had adequate supplies like
- books, computers, etc. and offered professional respect would convince teachers to stay.
- 14 8. We have mice at Balboa. I regularly see a mouse and mice droppings in my
- 15 classroom, including several times during this school year, and I have complained for years
- without success to try to rid my classroom of the mouse. The building and grounds staff person
- 17 at the school tells me that they put down traps, but I have not seen them. He also tells me he
- 18 cannot put down poison because city constituents are sensitive about that. But we need a long-
- 19 term solution to the problem because kids don't need to see vermin and their droppings in school.
- 9. For three years, I have complained to the building and grounds person about the
- 21 holes in my floor, and they were only fixed this year after this lawsuit was filed.
- 22 10. The school bathrooms are terrible; they constitute the eyesore of the school. The
- 23 student and faculty bathrooms stink and are nearly constantly unclean. Since this lawsuit was
- 24 filed, we have less of a problem of toilet paper and paper towels running out than we used to
- 25 have, which is a big improvement. But the tiles in the ceilings are still broken, and the walls still
- 26 have holes in them. Also the bathrooms are not always open, so students sometimes have to get

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I	security guards to let them into bathrooms.
2	11. My classroom and many others can become unbearably hot because of the way
3	the building is situated with the sun coming in. Students in classrooms on the sunny side of the
4	building just bake, and the temperature is almost inhuman for kids who have asthma. Even in the
5	winter, when I close the windows because it is cold, then the sun bakes the classroom. We just
6	have a greenhouse effect inside because the building doesn't breathe very well and we have no
7	fans and no air conditioning.
8,	12. I do not charge my students any fees for classes because I think a basic tenet of
9	public education is that it is supposed to be free. There was a teacher who no longer teaches at
10	Balboa who advised me to charge kids for books and then refund their money to them at the end
11	of the year if they returned the books. I was appalled. I think people who think even \$5 is not
12	significant to charge kids should go to Hunter's Point and see what \$5 is worth to kids in food.
13	Public education should be free to all kids.
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15	I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United
16	States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed by me this 9th day of June, 2001 in San
17	Francisco, California.
18	Francisco, California.  Stephen A. Brady
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