

- NEWS**
- [Page One](#)
- [Northeast Queens](#)
- [Southeast Queens](#)
- [Western Queens](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Police/Courts](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Weather](#)
- OPINION**
- [Editorials](#)
- [Columnists](#)
- [Readers Write](#)
- ENTERTAINMENT**
- [QGuide](#)
- [Dining Out](#)
- [Arts Listings](#)
- [Community Events](#)
- SPECIAL SECTIONS**
- [Bridal Guide](#)
- [Camp](#)
- [Golden Times](#)
- [Health & Fitness](#)
- GUIDE TO QUEENS**
- [Community Profiles](#)
- [Information](#)
- [QueensNY.com](#)
- RESOURCES**
- [Subscriptions](#)
- [Display Ads](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Media Kit](#)
- [About Us](#)
- CLASSIFIEDS**
- [Marketplace](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Public Notices](#)
- YELLOW PAGES**
- [Yellow Pages](#)
- FUN AND GAMES**
- [Horoscopes](#)
- [Crosswords](#)

Spitzer reverses decision on Hindu Temple Society

By Scott Sieber
07/28/2005

Email to a friend Voice your opinion Printer-friendly

Attorney General Eliot Spitzer recently stepped into the court battle between the Hindu Temple Society of North America and six of its devotees, who have been battling each other since 2001 over who has the right to rule.

In a ruling last summer, trial court judge Justice Joseph G. Golia restructured the temple, imposing elections and a \$5 membership requirement on the temple rather than allowing the temple to govern itself through a Board of Trustees in the traditional Hindu manner, according to representatives from the Beckett Fund, a law firm representing the temple.

Spitzer reversed the decision last month, stating in his brief that he "agrees with the acting board that as a matter of statutory interpretation, a ... 'free church' like the Society is governed by a self-perpetuating board of trustees. Thus, any bylaws supposedly adopted by ... a religious corporation that authorize the election of a board by the church's membership are null and void as a matter of law,"

The six members sued the temple asking for a different system of government after several disagreements stemming from what they said was questionable accounting in the \$6 million of construction done at the temple over recent years.

"The attorney general argues that the prior mistaken decision of the New York Appellate Court can be reversed," said Becket Fund counsel Roman Storzer. "And it certainly should, to avoid becoming the first constitutional decision in this nation's history permitting the government to decide how religious institutions will be run."

The support from the attorney general sends the case back to appellate court.

"The court has the opportunity to reverse its prior decision which would lead to a result that the society would run with a self-perpetuating board of trustees and not with a congregational style leadership," Storzer said.

Reach reporter Scott Sieber by e-mail at news@timesledger.com or by phone at 718-229-0300, Ext. 138.

Advertisement

[Find books and audio about 'travel' on Amazon.com](#)
Online shopping - Books, Magazines, Music, Videos, DVDs, Electronics, ...

[Great Items for Sale on eBay](#)
Discover a wide selection of merchandise, including authentic goods, n...

[Barnes & Noble - Official Web Site](#)
Shop Barnes & Noble.com for books, textbooks, movies, music and more.

[Shopping.com](#)
Find, compare and buy products.

Powered By ContextWeb

Hello R
[My Account](#) [Log Out](#)

NEW!
TIMESLEDGER
PREFERRED
CUSTOMER
CARD

Subscribing to the print edition can get you 10% to 20% discounts at dozens of local restaurants and businesses.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)
[SUBSCRIBE NOW](#)

[Great Items for Sale on eBay](#)

Discover a wide selection of merchandise, including authentic goods, n...

[Shopping.com](#)

Find, compare and buy products.

Powered By ContextWeb

TIMESLEDGER
PHOTO ALBUM

Browse and buy photographs of events taken by our photographers

ADVERTISEMENT

[Save Thousands in 2005!](#)

Consolidate debt, pay off credit cards lower monthly bill with Sterling National Mortgage





ADVERTISE

Ask about **DISPLAY & INTERNET ADS** and **CLASSIFIEDS**

Check out our coverage area in th

CONTACT US

Send a letter to the editor, report a story or event

 Email to a friend  Voice your opinion  Printer-friendly  ↑ Top

SEARCH:  Site    [Advanced Search](#)

News Jobs Cars Real Estate Classifieds Dining Out Queens Virtual Mail Queens Links Yellow Pages Subscriptions Maps

[Subscriptions](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Media Kit](#)
Copyright © 1995 - 2004 TimesLedger Newspapers. All Rights Reserved.
Supported by Zwire, PowerOne Media, Inc.