

Acceptance Speech for May 17, 2015 AFA Heroes of Conscience Award

James E. Enstrom, Ph.D., M.P.H. May 17, 2015 9 PM Final Version

I sincerely thank the American Freedom Alliance for this prestigious award. Also, I thank all those who made this award possible, particularly my wonderful wife Marta, my beloved parents, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, the American Center for Law and Justice, several key supporters within the University of California, many scientific colleagues across the county, numerous California businessmen, numerous California legislators, selected journalists, and many personal friends dating back to my childhood. By far my most important person has been Marta, whose love and support during the past four decades has made it possible for me to wage a successful battle against UCLA and UC, fighting almost impossible odds.

To understand the danger to science of my wrongful termination by UCLA, I relate it to the wrongful execution in 1935 of the elderly German Jew, Lehman Feldenstein, in “Judgment at Nuremberg.” The German Minister of Justice Dr. Ernst Janning, who oversaw a sham trial, ultimately confessed to a deliberate travesty of justice (<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/MovieSpeeches/moviespeechjudgmentatnuremberg1.html>).

“It was the old, old story of the sacrificial lamb. What about those of us who knew better, we who knew the words were lies and worse than lies? Why did we sit silent? Why did we take part? Because we loved our country. What difference does it make if a few political extremists lose their rights? What difference does it make if a few racial minorities lose their rights?” These words apply perfectly to everyone at UCLA and UC who has silently watched me be academically tortured for publishing honest research.

The Feldenstein case has personal relevance to me, because my scientific career was made possible when a cantor’s son, Jack Steinberger, was able to escape from Germany in 1934. He made it to Chicago, where he was eventually trained by Nobel Laureate Enrico Fermi, who is widely credited with helping save America by achieving the first self-sustained nuclear chain reaction in 1942. Steinberger then trained my Stanford dissertation advisor Melvin Schwartz and they both won the Nobel Prize together.

Because of my rigorous scientific training and the academic freedom that I have enjoyed for most of my career, I have been able to discover and publish honest, but often politically incorrect, science. In particular, I have exposed the pseudoscientific lie that fine particulate air pollution kills Californians. Although I have not been able to stop the CARB diesel regulations based on this lie, I am now helping Congress with legislation which will eventually stop all unjustified air pollution regulations by EPA and CARB.

In order for honest science to flourish, it is important that organizations like FIRE and AFA continue to defend academic freedom and I am so thankful that they have helped me. Finally, it is also important that everyone do their part to support academic freedom and scientific integrity.

Thank you.