



NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Assemblyman Rory Lancman, 25th District, Queens
Press Release: August 26, 2008

Assemblyman Rory Lancman To Keynote London Public Policy Symposium On “Libel Terrorism”

**Assemblyman Lancman To Also Observe Prime Minister’s
Questions In The House Of Commons And Meet And Confer
With Parliamentary Leader On Homeland Security Issues**

Queens, NY—Assemblyman Rory Lancman (D-Queens) will be the keynote speaker at a London public policy symposium on “libel terrorism” (sometimes called “libel tourism”) hosted by a prominent U.K. think tank, [Policy Exchange](#), on Tuesday, July 15 (12:45 GMT). Assemblyman Lancman will then participate in a panel discussion with prominent members of the U.K. legal and journalism community. The symposium will focus on the “Libel Terrorism Protection Act,” which Assemblyman Lancman authored with Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and which was signed into law by Governor David Paterson on May 1, 2008.

The law protects American journalists and authors in New York state from enforcement of foreign lawsuits which infringe on their First Amendment rights, a phenomenon known as “libel tourism,” or “libel terrorism” when used to suppress reporting on terrorism and its enablers, such as what occurred when Saudi billionaire Khalid Salim bin Mahfouz sued New York author Dr. Rachel Ehrenfeld in Britain, where 23 copies of her book identifying bin Mahfouz as a financier of terrorism, “Funding Evil: How Terrorism Is Financed – And How To Stop It,” were sold over the internet in the U.K.

The “Libel Terrorism Protection Act” was supported by a wide range of American free speech and anti-terrorism advocates, including the Association of American Publishers, PEN, the New York Newspaper Publishers Association, the New York City Bar Association, former Secretary of State George Shultz, former Central Intelligence Agency Director R. James Woolsey, and Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau. (A complete history of the legislation, including bill text, support memos and press coverage, can be found [here.](#))

Assemblyman Lancman, a member of both the Governmental Operations Committee (which has jurisdiction over homeland security issues in New York state) and the Judiciary Committee, will also observe Prime Minister’s Questions in the House of Commons and meet and confer on general homeland security issues with the chairman of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee (which has jurisdiction over homeland security in the United Kingdom).

While in London, Assemblyman Lancman will be available for press inquiries by phone at 917-363-9004 or e-mail at rlancman@nyad25.org.

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