



Berlin, September 20, 2019

## **Welfenschatz restitution proceedings: SPK Seeks United States Supreme Court Review**

*The Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz or SPK) filed a petition with the United States Supreme Court seeking review of a lower U.S. court decision this week.*

In 2015, a lawsuit seeking the restitution of the Welfenschatz (Guelph Treasure) was filed in the U.S. against the SPK and the Federal Republic of Germany (*Philipp and Stiebel vs. Federal Republic of Germany and Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz*). The SPK denies the allegations in the lawsuit. The SPK filed a motion to dismiss the case because U.S. courts do not have jurisdiction over this specific type of lawsuit. SPK's motion was denied and a court of appeals affirmed the denial in 2018.

The SPK has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to address whether an American court has jurisdiction to hear a case against a foreign government and its museum for actions allegedly occurring outside the U.S. The lower court's decision extends the jurisdiction of U.S. courts over other foreign governments and institutions – well beyond what is customary under international law. This expansion of U.S. jurisdiction may in turn expose the U.S. government to lawsuits in foreign courts for acts occurring in the U.S.

The law firm of Wiggin and Dana is representing the SPK in the U.S. proceedings.

### **Further information about the Guelph Treasure:**

<http://www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/en/newsroom/dossiers-and-news/all-dossiers/dossier-the-guelph-treasure.html>

### **About SPK**

With its museums, libraries, archives and research institutes, the *Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz* (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) is one of the most important cultural institutions in the world. Its outstanding collections include all areas of cultural tradition: from archaeological and ethnological objects by way of the visual arts to literature and music. They are the basis of intense scholarly and educational work. The Foundation was established in 1957 by federal law as a foundation directly responsible to the German government. It is financed by the German federal government – from the budget of the commissioner for culture and the media – and Germany's sixteen states.

**DER PRÄSIDENT**  
MEDIEN UND KOMMUNIKATION

**INGOLF KERN**  
**BIRGIT JÖBSTL**

Von-der-Heydt-Straße 16–18  
10785 Berlin

Telefon: +49 30 266-41 14 40  
Telefax: +49 30 266-41 28 21

pressestelle@hv.spk-berlin.de  
www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de

**Contact for U.S. Media Inquiries to SPK:**

**ANDREW FRANK**

Phone: +1 212 333-0275

E-Mail: [adf@karvcommunications.com](mailto:adf@karvcommunications.com)

We would like to keep our press mailing list up to date. If you would like to notify us of changes to your contact information or if you no longer wish to receive press releases from the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz, please send an e-mail to [pressestelle@hv.spk-berlin.de](mailto:pressestelle@hv.spk-berlin.de) or use the form on our website: [www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/en/newsroom/press/press-mailing-list.html](http://www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de/en/newsroom/press/press-mailing-list.html)