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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NJ ATTORNEY GENERAL DEALS BLOW TO CHINESE TAKEOVER OF US COLLEGE

**TOP LEGAL REGULATOR SEVERELY CRITICIZES PLAN TO SELL WESTMINSTER
CHOIR COLLEGE TO CHINESE GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT CONGLOMERATE**

**NEW JERSEY AG: RIDER UNIVERSITY MUST SHOW SALE OF CHOIR COLLEGE
IS “SOLELY” FOR BENEFIT OF WESTMINSTER AND ITS “CURRENT AND FUTURE
STUDENTS AND ITS FACULTY”**

Princeton, Thursday, March 28, 2019 — In a long-awaited and groundbreaking opinion, New Jersey’s Attorney General has come down heavily against Rider University’s attempt to sell one of America’s leading cultural institutions, the 100-year old Westminster Choir College.

"The AG's opinion filed yesterday with the New Jersey Superior Court makes any attempt to sell the renowned music college almost impossible," said Bruce Afran, attorney for the Westminster Foundation, a federation of Westminster faculty, alumni and donors seeking to block the sale of Westminster Choir College to a Chinese investment conglomerate.

“The opinion says that the 1935 Trust that created the campus must continue to be used for the Choir College’s educational and religious mission or shift to the Princeton Theological Seminary under the terms of the 1935 Will of Sophia Strong Taylor,” Afran continued. “If the Court accepts the AG’s position, it will be impossible for Rider to sell the College to Kaiwen Education, Rider's designated Chinese government buyer, or to anyone other than a non-profit educational institution.”

In the 35-page opinion, the Attorney General also demanded that Rider demonstrate that the sale of the Choir College was intended “solely for the benefit of Westminster, including its current and future students and its faculty.”

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“By this language, the Attorney General has made it clear that Rider University cannot sell Westminster Choir College unless the purpose is to use the funds to continue the College’s educational, cultural and religious program,” Afran continued.

Constance Fee, President of the Westminster Foundation, an alumna of Westminster and long a presence on the European opera circuit said today that the AG’s opinion is a victory for the preservation of America’s cultural heritage.

“The opinion released today makes it almost certain that Westminster Choir College will remain open for future generations,” Fee said. “We expect that Rider University will see the hopelessness of its efforts to sell this school and will instead return to proper stewardship of one of the world’s great cultural institutions.”

A court conference is scheduled for April 15, 2019, at 2 PM before Judge Paul Innes, the Chancery Division judge in Trenton who is overseeing the challenges to the Westminster sale.

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