

Eminent Domain Plaintiff sends Holiday Message

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Susette Kelo, the woman at the center of the national debate over property rights has sent her last holiday cards from her home in New London, Connecticut...

A snowy image of her pink house with a message that reads, "Your houses, your homes, your family, your friends. May they live in misery that never ends. I curse you all. May you rot in hell. To each of you I send this spell."

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June of 2005 granted New London the right to take homes in the Fort Trumbull neighborhood under the premise of eminent domain, allowing the city to use the property to further development intended to increase tax revenues for the community. The holiday cards were sent to city officials and members of the New London Development Corporation, responsible for the eminent domain action.

Kelo was represented by the Institute for Justice, as were other homeowners involved in the legal action.

Kelo was one of the last holdouts, accepting a \$440,000 settlement, \$300,000 more than the appraised value of her house. The house will be moved elsewhere in the city. Gail Schwenker-Mayer, supporter of the re-development project, stated, "It's amazing anyone could be so vindictive when they've made so much money."