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Stanford brief backs firing of Franklin

Stanford University's decision to dismiss former Prof. H. Bruce Franklin was no violation of Franklin's free speech rights, attorneys for the university have argued in the latest brief filed in the four-year battle over his ouster.

The university based its decision on its claim that Franklin's speech was the "catalyst" which led to the occupation of the Computation Center on Feb. 10, 1971, during student demonstrations.

Franklin and the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Northern California are seeking his reinstatement with back pay. The ACLU group and Franklin have stated that his actions were within the limits of the First Amendment of the Constitution and the Labor Code.

The university's latest brief, filed in Santa Clara County Superior Court, argues that "the First Amendment does not limit academic communities to regulating conduct which is criminal on the streets, nor to punishing speech which incites 'lawless action.'

"Instead, an academic institution may properly prohibit actions which, although not criminal, 'materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school."

Crystal Corings and Unlands Schools