

# Jim Gottstein

Jim Gottstein grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, graduating from West High in 1971, the University of Oregon in 1974, and Harvard Law School in 1978. In 1982, he experienced a psychotic break due to sleep deprivation and was introduced first hand to the mental illness system. He was told he would be permanently mentally ill and never practice law again. Luckily, he escaped psychiatry and the experience led him to advocacy on behalf of people diagnosed with mental illness not as lucky as he. In 2002, Jim founded the Law Project for Psychiatric Rights (PsychRights) to mount a strategic litigation campaign against forced psychiatric drugging and electroshock, and to inform the public about the counterproductive and harmful nature of the drugs and shock. PsychRights has won five Alaska Supreme Court cases and one in the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Jim has also devoted considerable time trying to make alternatives to psychiatric drugs available in Alaska, including Soteria-Alaska, Peer Properties, and CHOICES, Inc. In late 2006, Jim's subpoenaing and releasing secret documents showing drug maker Eli Lilly hid that Zyprexa caused diabetes and massive weight gain in a large number of people resulted in a multi-day exposé in *The New York Times*. His book, [\*The Zyprexa Papers\*](#), gives a riveting first-hand account of these events as well as his representation of Bill Bigley, the person for whom he subpoenaed the documents.