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CENTRAL AMERICAN "SANCTUARY" TRIAL

TOPIC OF TALK BY ACCUSED SISTER, ATTORNEY

Key defense counsel Michael Altman and defendant Sister Darlene Nicgorski are set to discuss Thursday at USD the upcoming trial in which she and other church officials are charged with smuggling and harboring undocumented refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala.

Altman, who is an Arizona State University law professor and has taught at USD, and Sister Nicgorski are scheduled to speak at 8 p.m. Thursday in Grace Courtroom, USD School of Law, More Hall.

They will discuss the landmark case, the sanctuary movement, the conflicts between church and state, and the problem in Central America giving rise to these controversies.

"This is a political issue of extraordinary importance because it pits church against state and because a whole new body of law is developing from the Central American problem," Altman said.

Sister Nicgorski, of the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee, was indicted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in January. She and the others are scheduled to go to trial July 9 in Arizona.

Altman, one of several attorneys for the defense, is coordinating the case for the sanctuary movement, a national phenomena.

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