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ACLJ Calls Appeals Court Ruling on Pledge of Allegiance Faulty and Flawed Legal Reasoning

June 26, 2002

(Washington, DC) - The American Center for Law and Justice, an international public interest law firm, said today a decision by a federal appeals court that declares the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional is faulty and flawed legal reasoning and should be overturned.



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"This is one of the most absurd legal rulings of our time," said Jay Sekulow, Chief Counsel of the ACLJ. "To suggest that school children who want to recite the Pledge of Allegiance can no longer do so because it violates the constitution represents faulty and flawed legal reasoning on the part of the appeals court. The finding that the phrase 'under God' that was added to the words 'one nation' in the Pledge by an act of Congress in 1954 is an endorsement of religion is very troubling. The appeals court missed the mark and is re-writing law instead of interpreting it. The recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance - including the phrase 'One nation under God' - is part of who we are as Americans. This is just another attempt to remove any mention of God from the public arena. We will work aggressively to make sure this ruling gets overturned."

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit today ruled that the phrase "under God" that was added to the Pledge by Congress in 1954 violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

The ACLJ is an international public interest law firm specializing in constitutional law and its web site address is www.aclj.org.