



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

April 1, 2026

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**National Association of Christian Lawmakers Responds to Federal Court Ruling on Arkansas Ten Commandments Monument**

**LITTLE ROCK, AR – April 1, 2026** – The National Association of Christian Lawmakers today issued a strong response to the recent federal district court ruling striking down Arkansas’s Ten Commandments monument on State Capitol grounds.

While the court issued its opinion, the order has been **stayed pending appeal**, meaning the monument will remain in place as the case moves forward. NACL expressed confidence that higher courts will ultimately reverse the decision.

“This ruling is a clear example of judicial overreach that disregards both the Constitution and our nation’s history,” said Jason Rapert, Founder and President of NACL, who served as the legislative sponsor of the Ten Commandments Monument Display Act during his time in the Arkansas State Senate. “For too long, activist judges have attempted to push faith out of the public square, despite clear guidance from the United States Supreme Court rejecting that approach. The Ten Commandments are part of the moral and legal foundation of our system of law, and we will not stand by while unelected judges attempt to erase that truth. This fight is far from over, and we are confident this decision will be overturned on appeal.”

The case now moves to the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, where NACL believes the law will be applied under the Supreme Court’s current history-and-tradition framework.

Bob Ballinger, Chief Legal Officer for NACL, emphasized the legal significance of the appeal.

“This district court ruling relies on an outdated Establishment Clause framework that the United States Supreme Court has expressly abandoned,” Ballinger said. “Under controlling precedent, the proper analysis focuses on history, tradition, and coercion. A passive monument like this, one that compels no religious activity, fits squarely within constitutional bounds. We are confident the Eighth Circuit will correct this error.”

NACL also noted that this case is part of a broader legal landscape in Arkansas, including ongoing litigation over Act 573, which addresses Ten Commandments displays in public schools and is likewise pending before the Eighth Circuit.

“This is not an isolated case,” Ballinger added. “The Eighth Circuit now has an opportunity to bring clarity and consistency to the law and ensure that Arkansas statutes are evaluated under the Supreme Court’s current standard, not outdated tests that have already been rejected.”

Mary Curtis, Director of Operations for NACL, affirmed the organization’s continued commitment to these issues nationwide.

“NACL will remain fully engaged in these legal battles across the country,” Curtis said. “Our members are on the front lines advancing policies that reflect faith, family, and freedom. We will continue to support lawmakers, defend these laws, and ensure that the voice of the American people is heard.”

For decades, courts applied the now-abandoned *Lemon* test to remove religious expression from public life. However, the Supreme Court of the United States has made clear that the Constitution does not require hostility toward religion and that longstanding, passive acknowledgments of faith, such as monuments, are consistent with the nation’s history and traditions.

**The monument remains in place. The case is on appeal. And the fight continues.**

#### **About the National Association of Christian Lawmakers (NACL):**

The National Association of Christian Lawmakers (NACL) unites federal, state, and local lawmakers to champion biblical principles in governance. Meeting regularly to discuss pressing issues, NACL members develop model statutes, ordinances, and resolutions that address significant policy concerns from a biblical perspective. Since its inaugural meeting in 2020, NACL has established 41 state chairs, with members and supporters across all 50 states and Puerto Rico. NACL is the first formal national association of Christian lawmakers in U.S. history.

For more information, please visit <https://christianlawmakers.com/>