



THE
**LEGAL
ALERT**

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE
CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

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CLA CONTINUES THE BATTLE FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Above the main entrance of the United States Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C., a phrase is plainly engraved for all to see: *Equal Justice Under Law*. Based on language in the first section of the Fourteenth Amendment, this phrase captures the important American ideal that every citizen, regardless of rank or wealth, can enjoy the liberties of these United States.

Some years ago, a survey was taken in some foreign nations asking about their impressions of the justice system in the U.S. Many people thought that good legal results were almost always obtained by wealthy people, while poor or underprivileged people typically received substandard justice.

As it turns out, the American system of justice is actually the international gold standard. By and large, our constitutional system of government provides an amazingly fair system for the citizenry. But it is true that people who are extremely wealthy can sometimes cause great problems for people of lesser means. For example, if a wealthy person knows he will ultimately lose a case, he may file a lawsuit anyway, knowing that the legal expenses associated with the case can deeply financially harm Christians and churches who do not have large bank accounts.

At the Christian Law Association, it is our mission to make absolutely certain that when God's people are sued for the faith, they can be represented in court by competent attorneys, even when our clients are not wealthy. As a matter of policy, CLA never charges a single penny when we represent Bible-preaching churches who have been wrongfully sued for the faith.

Equal Justice Under Law is a great slogan, and we are thankful that it is a cornerstone of the American justice system. But we are always profoundly grateful for our supporters who make it possible for us to protect God's people when powerful people pursue them for practicing their Biblical faith. As we have for decades, we proudly defend the rights and Christian liberty of Bible-believing Christians.





GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE!

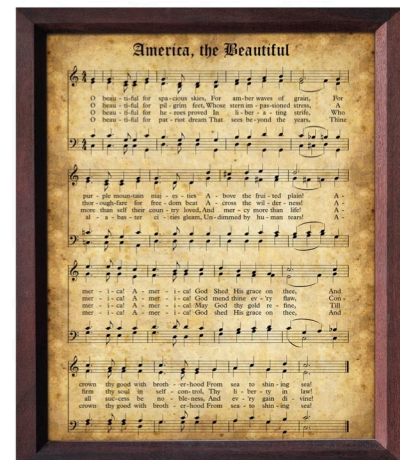
When most people think of Wall Street in New York City, the first thing that comes to mind is that it is one of the most influential financial centers in the world. But the building at 26 Wall Street is the Federal Hall National Memorial. When the Constitution was first adopted, this building served as the nation's first capitol, and George Washington took the oath of office as the first president of the United States, approximately where a statue of him now stands.

In that first Inaugural Address, President Washington wisely acknowledged the providence of God in the establishment of our nation, saying, *“it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States.”*

President Washington also said, *“In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow citizens at large less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States.”*

In the hundreds of years that have passed since that auspicious first inauguration, many unbelievers have attempted to completely rewrite the early history of our nation. Some even claim that the Founding Fathers were secular-minded children of the Enlightenment who did not have God in their thoughts at all. In complete contrast, President Washington's speech as the first President of the United States specifically stated that the people of America have a special duty to adore the Lord our God and to admit that His Invisible Hand controls the day-to-day lives of people everywhere.

America, America, God shed His grace on Thee!



LEGAL QUESTIONS, PRAYER REQUESTS, OR DONATIONS:
CALL **888-252-1969** OR VISIT **WWW.CHRISTIANLAW.ORG**



HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY, AMERICA

Though it's a bit of a tongue twister, the United States is celebrating its bisesquicentennial—its 250th birthday! On July 4, 1776, fifty-six patriots signed the Declaration of Independence. The signers represented the original thirteen colonies. Notable figures like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams signed the document, as well as John Hancock, who famously signed with an extra-large signature. The story, perhaps apocryphal, notes that Hancock said, "There, John Bull can read my name without spectacles." John Bull, of course, was a common nickname for England and the British people.

As our patriotic songs remind us, America truly is the "sweet land of liberty." America is a nation that has been particularly blessed by God. There

is no doubt that our Founding Fathers could never have predicted that America would become such a superpower. By any standard, we have much for which to be grateful.

Just as brave patriots fought for our independence during the Revolutionary War, patriots continue to pray for America, to serve God in America, and to actively exercise their religious liberties.

The Christian Law Association salutes our nation's 250th birthday, and we proudly stand for the First Amendment rights of God's people as they proclaim the glorious message of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Happy Birthday, America! May God never remove His amazing hand of protection!

250 YEARS OF FREEDOM—WILL WE PROTECT IT?

As America approaches another anniversary of independence, we are reminded that our freedoms did not come without sacrifice. Among the most precious liberties our founders sought to preserve was the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience. Today, churches, Christian schools, pastors, and believers continue to face legal challenges that threaten those freedoms. Every day, the Christian Law Association receives calls from ministries seeking help in matters involving religious liberty, church governance, property disputes, employment issues, and constitutional rights.

As we celebrate our nation's heritage, please remember the ongoing need to defend the freedoms that allow the Gospel to be preached without government interference. Your prayers and support enable CLA to continue providing legal assistance to those who faithfully serve the Lord. *"And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* (2 Corinthians 3:17b)

PRAYER & PRAISE CHECKLIST



- ALABAMA**
 - ◆ Pray for a church seeking legal guidance after questions arose regarding the proper handling and administration of designated benevolence funds.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian school that successfully resolved a land-use matter and received approval to expand its educational facilities.
- ALASKA**
 - ◆ Pray for pastors reviewing church bylaws after leadership transitions revealed uncertainty regarding governance procedures.
 - ◆ Praise God for a ministry that received favorable recognition of its religious exemption rights in an employment-related matter.
- ARIZONA**
 - ◆ Pray for a congregation facing concerns after a neighboring property owner challenged the church's parking arrangements.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that completed the purchase of additional property after overcoming complex title and deed issues.
- ARKANSAS**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders seeking wisdom while responding to allegations made by a former volunteer.
 - ◆ Praise God for a Christian camp that successfully updated its policies and obtained renewed insurance coverage for ministry activities.
- CALIFORNIA**
 - ◆ Pray for a Christian employer seeking guidance regarding employee accommodation requests while maintaining Biblical convictions.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a congregation that prevailed in a dispute involving the use of leased facilities for worship services.
- COLORADO**
 - ◆ Pray for a church reviewing child protection procedures after learning that its policies no longer reflect current legal requirements.
 - ◆ Praise God for a ministry that successfully defended its tax-exempt status after an administrative challenge.
- CONNECTICUT**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a Christian school addresses questions concerning student handbook enforcement and disciplinary procedures.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that reached a favorable settlement in a contractor dispute involving facility renovations.
- DELAWARE**
 - ◆ Pray for a ministry seeking legal guidance regarding intellectual property concerns involving educational materials.
 - ◆ Praise God for a congregation that successfully resolved long-standing boundary line questions affecting church property.
- FLORIDA**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders responding to local government inquiries regarding ministry activities conducted on church grounds.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian school that received approval to continue operating under religious educational exemptions.
- GEORGIA**
 - ◆ Pray for a church seeking counsel regarding the removal and replacement of board members in accordance with its governing documents.
 - ◆ Praise God for a ministry that successfully recovered funds after uncovering financial misconduct by a former employee.
- HAWAII**
 - ◆ Pray for a congregation evaluating liability concerns connected to community outreach programs.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that obtained favorable zoning approval for future ministry growth.
- IDAHO**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders seeking guidance after questions arose regarding pastoral succession procedures.
 - ◆ Praise God for a Christian organization that successfully registered and protected important ministry trademarks.
- ILLINOIS**
 - ◆ Pray for a school administrator responding to requests that conflict with the institution's Biblical standards.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that resolved an insurance coverage dispute without litigation.
- INDIANA**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a ministry addresses concerns involving volunteer screening and background check practices.
 - ◆ Praise God for a congregation that successfully negotiated a favorable property easement agreement.
- IOWA**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders seeking legal guidance regarding the management of restricted donations.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian school that successfully completed a corporate restructuring to strengthen its ministry.
- KANSAS**
 - ◆ Pray for a ministry facing challenges related to municipal sign regulations affecting church visibility.
 - ◆ Praise God for a favorable outcome that protected a church's ability to conduct religious activities on its property.
- KENTUCKY**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders reviewing constitutional documents after discovering inconsistencies with state nonprofit laws.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully resolved a dispute concerning charitable gift administration.
- LOUISIANA**
 - ◆ Pray for a Christian camp seeking guidance concerning liability protections for youth activities.
 - ◆ Praise God for a congregation that obtained a favorable resolution in a property tax-related matter.
- MAINE**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a church responds to allegations involving unauthorized use of ministry materials.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a school that successfully addressed regulatory concerns while preserving Biblical policies.
- MARYLAND**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders evaluating legal responsibilities connected to facility-sharing agreements.
 - ◆ Praise God for a ministry that favorably resolved an employment classification issue.
- MASSACHUSETTS**
 - ◆ Pray for a congregation seeking guidance after receiving complaints concerning church-sponsored community events.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that successfully protected its ownership interests in ministry property.
- MICHIGAN**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as Christian educators address questions involving student privacy and record keeping requirements.
 - ◆ Praise God for a congregation that secured a favorable settlement in a construction defect dispute.
- MINNESOTA**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders reviewing cybersecurity concerns involving ministry donor information.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully renewed permits needed for community outreach programs.
- MISSISSIPPI**
 - ◆ Pray for a church seeking counsel regarding the legal responsibilities of trustees and officers.
 - ◆ Praise God for a Christian school that successfully resolved a contract dispute with a vendor.
- MISSOURI**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a congregation addresses concerns regarding facility accessibility requirements.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that favorably resolved questions regarding ownership of donated property.
- MONTANA**
 - ◆ Pray for a church seeking guidance after discovering deficiencies in its recordkeeping and corporate documentation.
 - ◆ Praise God for a ministry that successfully negotiated a favorable lease agreement for expanded outreach opportunities.
- NEBRASKA**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as church leaders address questions concerning the proper use of designated memorial gifts.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian organization that successfully resolved a dispute involving ministry equipment ownership.

- NEVADA**
 - ◆ Pray for a congregation reviewing policies after concerns arose regarding the supervision of church volunteers.
 - ◆ Praise God for a church that obtained favorable approval for facility improvements despite regulatory obstacles.
- NEW HAMPSHIRE**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders seeking counsel regarding compliance with charitable solicitation requirements.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully defended its right to distribute religious literature in a public setting.
- NEW JERSEY**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a Christian school addresses questions involving employee handbook provisions and workplace expectations.
 - ◆ Praise God for a congregation that favorably resolved a dispute involving neighboring property access rights.
- NEW MEXICO**
 - ◆ Pray for a church seeking legal guidance regarding the administration of a donor-restricted building fund.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully completed the transfer of property for future ministry expansion.
- NEW YORK**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders responding to government inquiries regarding the tax treatment of ministry property.
 - ◆ Praise God for a Christian employer that successfully preserved its religious hiring protections.
- NORTH CAROLINA**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a ministry reviews contracts related to facility rentals and special events.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a church that successfully resolved a dispute involving insurance coverage for storm damage.
- NORTH DAKOTA**
 - ◆ Pray for a congregation seeking guidance regarding legal responsibilities connected to church-owned vehicles.
 - ◆ Praise God for a ministry that received favorable recognition of its nonprofit status after administrative review.
- OHIO**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders evaluating potential liability issues connected to counseling and discipleship ministries.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian school that successfully resolved a zoning matter affecting future expansion plans.
- OKLAHOMA**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a church addresses concerns regarding copyright compliance for ministry publications.
 - ◆ Praise God for a congregation that favorably resolved a dispute involving a construction contract.
- OREGON**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders seeking guidance after receiving complaints concerning religious expression in a community partnership.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully protected its ability to conduct outreach activities in public spaces.
- PENNSYLVANIA**
 - ◆ Pray for a Christian school reviewing admission procedures to ensure consistency with Biblical mission and legal requirements.
 - ◆ Praise God for a church that successfully resolved a title issue affecting ministry property.
- RHODE ISLAND**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a congregation addresses questions regarding the handling of confidential member information.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully negotiated favorable terms in a facility-use agreement.
- SOUTH CAROLINA**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders reviewing policies concerning benevolence assistance and charitable distributions.
 - ◆ Praise God for a congregation that favorably resolved a dispute involving utility easements on church property.
- SOUTH DAKOTA**
 - ◆ Pray for a ministry seeking legal counsel regarding succession planning and future leadership transitions.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian camp that successfully obtained permits needed for facility improvements.
- TENNESSEE**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders responding to questions involving financial accountability and internal controls.
 - ◆ Praise God for a ministry that successfully resolved a dispute concerning intellectual property ownership.
- TEXAS**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a church evaluates legal issues connected to security teams and emergency response planning.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian school that successfully defended its ability to maintain faith-based policies.
- UTAH**
 - ◆ Pray for a congregation seeking guidance regarding facility use requests from outside organizations.
 - ◆ Praise God for a ministry that favorably resolved a dispute involving contractor performance and repairs.
- VERMONT**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders addressing questions concerning compliance with state charitable reporting requirements.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a congregation that successfully protected ministry property from an adverse claim.
- VIRGINIA**
 - ◆ Pray for wisdom as a Christian organization reviews employment practices to ensure legal compliance and Biblical consistency.
 - ◆ Praise God for a church that successfully obtained approval for expanded parking and ministry facilities.
- WASHINGTON**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders seeking guidance regarding online ministry activities and digital privacy concerns.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a Christian employer that favorably resolved a workplace accommodation dispute.
- WEST VIRGINIA**
 - ◆ Pray for a ministry evaluating legal responsibilities connected to mission trips and volunteer travel.
 - ◆ Praise God for a congregation that successfully completed a complex property transfer benefiting future ministry efforts.
- WISCONSIN**
 - ◆ Pray for for wisdom as a church addresses questions involving member discipline procedures and governing documents.
 - ◆ Praise the Lord for a ministry that successfully resolved a dispute concerning charitable trust administration.
- WYOMING**
 - ◆ Pray for church leaders seeking counsel regarding risk management and liability protection for ministry activities.
 - ◆ Praise God for a congregation that favorably resolved a long-standing property boundary disagreement, allowing future ministry development.

We covet your prayers for these requests and hundreds of others we receive weekly.

THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING:

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel for churches, ministries, and homeschooling families
- Monthly publication of **The Legal Alert** newsletter
- Christian legal resources and educational materials
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Intercessory prayer ministry and national prayer initiatives
- Religious liberty consulting for government leaders
- Legal seminars to help ministries avoid lawsuits
- **The Legal Alert** weekday radio program on 1,600+ outlets worldwide