



PRESS RELEASE

**Contact: Jerry Cox
Office: 501-375-7000
Cell: 501-912-6600**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, December 14, 2009**

FAMILY COUNCIL QUESTIONS FEDERAL JUDGE RULING IN ACLU CASE Group Says that Public Holiday Displays are State Issue

In a statement on Monday, Family Council Director, Jerry Cox, questioned the ruling by federal judge Susan Webber Wright. Judge Wright ruled in favor of the ACLU's lawsuit on behalf of the Arkansas Society of Freethinkers, a group of local atheists who want to exhibit a pagan winter solstice display on State Capitol grounds. Secretary of State Charlie Daniels denied the society's request to erect such a display, so the ACLU brought the issue to federal court.

"Have we come to a point where the federal judges are going to have to approve Christmas decorations? The Secretary of State has the right to deny certain displays if they are not consistent with the tone of the holiday being celebrated, which is Christmas," Cox said.

Cox further pointed out that winter solstice is not a holiday. "Where is the deep cultural significance of the changing of the seasons? Winter solstice is an astronomical event, not a holiday."

"The truth is, the ACLU is trying to force federal judges to get involved in state matters, simply because they don't like the focus to be on Christmas. These so-called 'free thinkers' and the ACLU are the same people who have tried for years to remove nativity displays from public. This is their latest attempt to attack the celebration of Christmas as a Christian holiday," said Cox.

The Family Council is a conservative education and research organization based in Little Rock, Arkansas.

###