

EXHIBIT A

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

DARCY ROAKE, et al.,

PLAINTIFFS,

v.

CADE BRUMLEY, et al.,

DEFENDANTS.

Civil Action No. 3:24-cv-517

Judge: JWD - SDJ

DECLARATION OF ASHLEY TOWNSEND

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Ashley Townsend, duly affirm under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am over 18 years of age, have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein, and am competent to make this Declaration.

2. My name is Ashley Townsend. I serve as the Deputy Chief of Policy for the Louisiana Department of Education (DOE).

3. I understand that the Louisiana Legislature passed into law H.B. 71, which requires each public school governing authority to display the Ten Commandments in each classroom because of the prominent role of that text in the history of American public schools as evidenced by the copies of *McGuffey Readers* and the textbooks of Noah Webster, widely used in schools for three centuries.

4. I understand that H.B. 71 requires schools to display, alongside the Ten Commandments, a context statement explaining the history of the Ten Commandments in American public schools and that H.B. 71 permits the accompanying display of other prominent historical documents, including but not

limited to the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, and the Northwest Ordinance.

5. I understand that H.B. 71 proscribes public school governing authorities from having to spend their funds to purchase displays, so the authorities can accept donated funds to purchase displays or accept donated displays.

6. I understand that H.B. 71 requires that (a) the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) adopt rules and regulations that will govern the proper implementation of the law and (b) the DOE identify appropriate resources to comply with the law that are free of charge and list those resources on its website.

7. I understand that public school governing authorities must comply with the law in 149 days from now—by January 1, 2025.

8. BESE has not adopted any rules or regulations governing the proper implementation of H.B. 71.

9. The DOE has not taken any steps to identify any free resources to comply with H.B. 71.

10. The DOE has not listed on its website any resources to comply with H.B. 71.

11. I have reviewed some of the pleadings in the above-captioned case, including Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and Memorandum of Law In Support of Defendants' Consolidated Motion to Dismiss, Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction, and Alternative Motion for Stay Pending Appeal. The illustratives

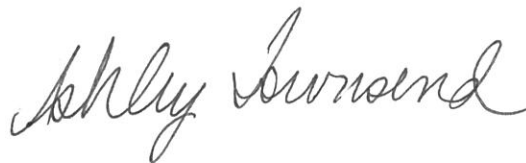
in Defendants' Memorandum of Law that I reviewed are reproduced below as Exhibit A-1.

12. Though I and other DOE staff members do not yet know how DOE, among others, will implement H.B. 71, DOE will likely consider some of the illustratives in Exhibit A-1 or variations of them when identifying free resources.

13. In implementing H.B. 71 by identifying free resources, DOE will likely also consider other illustratives with different themes, content, formats, layouts, graphics, typography, color schemes, sizes, styles, interactive elements, spacing, borders, and headings.

14. Based on my experience, I anticipate BESE and public school governing authorities will likely also consider the illustratives in Exhibit A-1 and variations of them when implementing H.B. 71. I also expect them to likely consider other submissions from stakeholders (including but not limited to parents, students, staff, and community members) that have different themes, content, formats, layouts, graphics, typography, color schemes, sizes, styles, interactive elements, spacing, borders, and headings.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashley Townsend".

Executed on: August 5, 2024

Ashley Townsend

EXHIBIT A-1

AMERICAN PUBLIC EDUCATION: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The History of the Ten Commandments in American Public Education: The Ten Commandments were a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries. Around the year 1688, The New England Primer became the first published American textbook and was the equivalent of a first grade reader. The New England Primer was used in public schools throughout the United States for more than one hundred fifty years to teach Americans to read and contained more than forty questions about the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments were also included in public school textbooks published by educator William McGuffey, a noted university president and professor. A version of his famous McGuffey Readers was written in the early 1800s and became one of the most popular textbooks in the history of American education, selling more than one hundred million copies. Copies of the McGuffey Readers are still available today. The Ten Commandments also appeared in textbooks published by Noah Webster in which were widely used in American public schools along with America's first comprehensive dictionary that Webster also published. His textbook, The American Spelling Book, contained the Ten Commandments and sold more than one hundred million copies for use by public school children all across the nation and was still available for use in American public schools in the year 1975.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

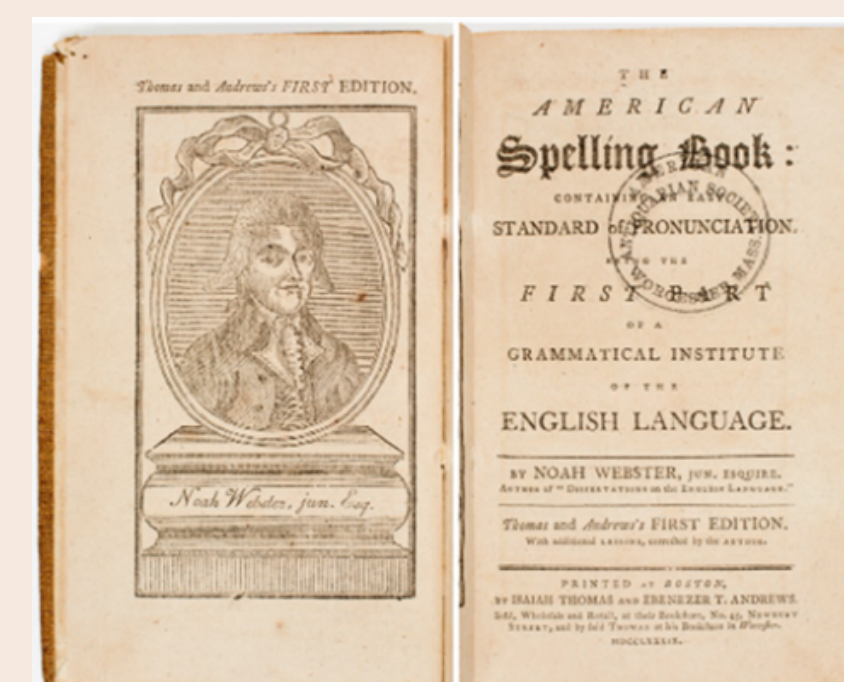
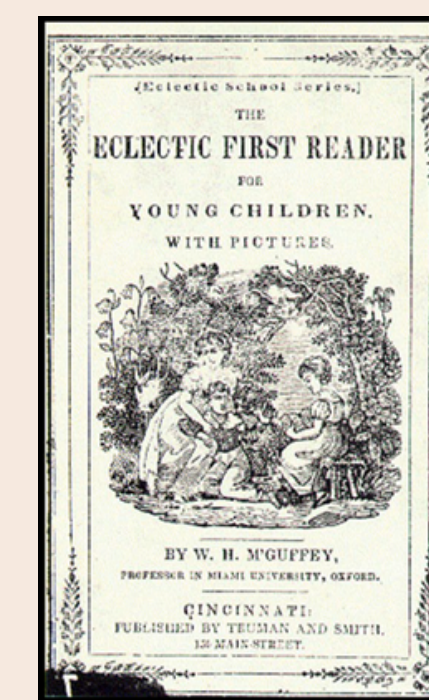
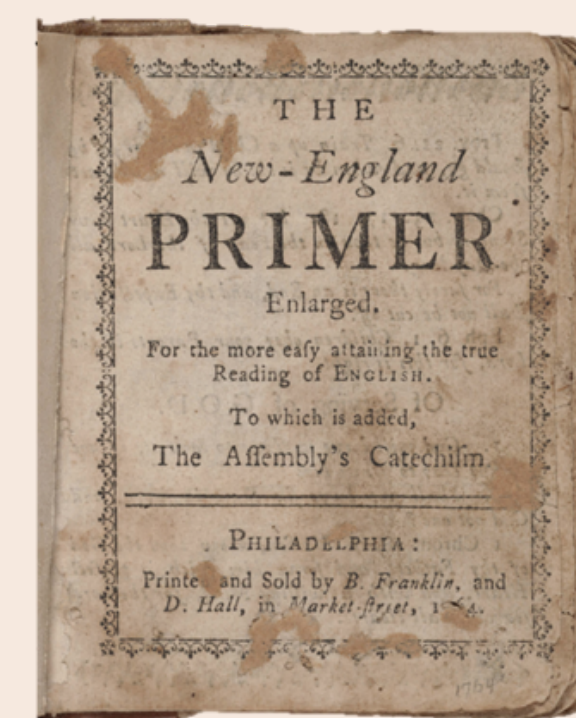
I AM THE LORD THY GOD.
THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS
BEFORE ME.
THOU SHALT NOT MAKE TO THYSELF
ANY GRAVEN IMAGES.
THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF
THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.
REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP
IT HOLY.
HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER,
THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE
LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD
GIVETH THEE.
THOU SHALT NOT KILL.
THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.
THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS
AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR.
THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY
NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE. THOU SHALT NOT
COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, NOR HIS
MANSERVANT, NOR HIS MAIDSERVANT,
NOR HIS CATTLE, NOR ANYTHING THAT
IS THY NEIGHBOR'S.



**NOAH
WEBSTER**



**WILLIAM
MCGUFFEY**



RELIGION'S ROLE IN AMERICAN LEGAL HISTORY



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY

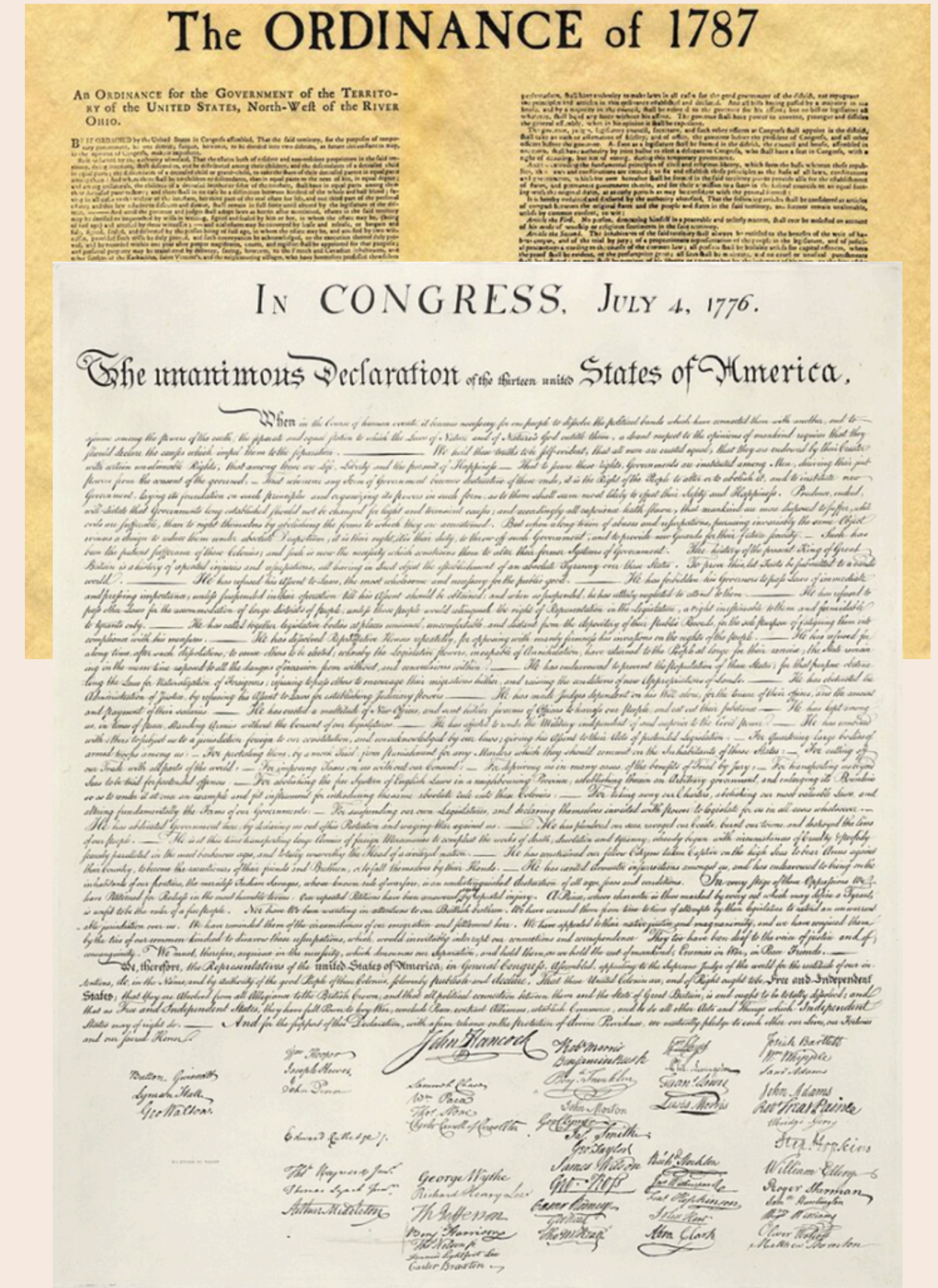
NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE. THOU SHALT NOT

COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, NOR HIS

MANSERVANT, NOR HIS MAIDSERVANT,

NOR HIS CATTLE, NOR ANYTHING THAT

IS THY NEIGHBOR'S.



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Context for Acknowledging America's Religious History: Some documents stand out as pivotal in the religious history of America and Louisiana's legal system, among which are the Mayflower Compact, The Declaration of Independence as a legal foundation for the United States Constitution, the Ten Commandments as one of the foundations of our legal system, and the Northwest Ordinance, which was a primary document affirming faith and the first congressional act legally prohibiting slavery. It is hoped that their study and relation to each other and the history of our state and nation will foster an appreciation for the role that religion has played in the legal history of America and the state of Louisiana and prompt further public study. American law, constitutionalism, and political theory have deep roots in religion. American ideals about liberty, freedom, equality, legal responsibility and codes of law, to mention a few, have roots and underpinnings in religion and biblical literacy. The Ten Commandments, which are found in the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament of the Bible, was one of the earliest written expressions of law to be incorporated in American legal systems. The Ten Commandments, or the law of nature, also impacted the Declaration of Independence which refers to the "laws of nature and of Nature's God."

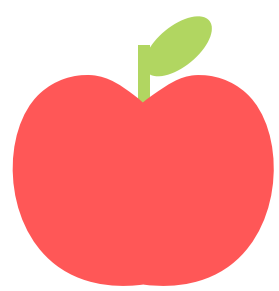
WHAT ARE RULES?

Statements About How
You Should Behave

What Is A Famous Example of Rules?

The Ten Commandments

I AM the LORD thy God,
 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
 Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven images.
 Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain.
 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
 Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be
 long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
 Thou shalt not kill.
 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 Thou shalt not steal.
 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.
 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his
 manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his cattle, nor
 anything that is thy neighbor's.



What Are Our Class Rules?

Our Class Rules

Be Kind
 Work Hard and Do Your Best
 Listen Carefully and Follow Directions
 Be Respectful and Polite
 Keep Your Hands and Feet to Yourself
 Wait Your Turn
 Raise Your Hand Before Asking a Question
 Arrive on Time
 Treat Classroom Materials with Care

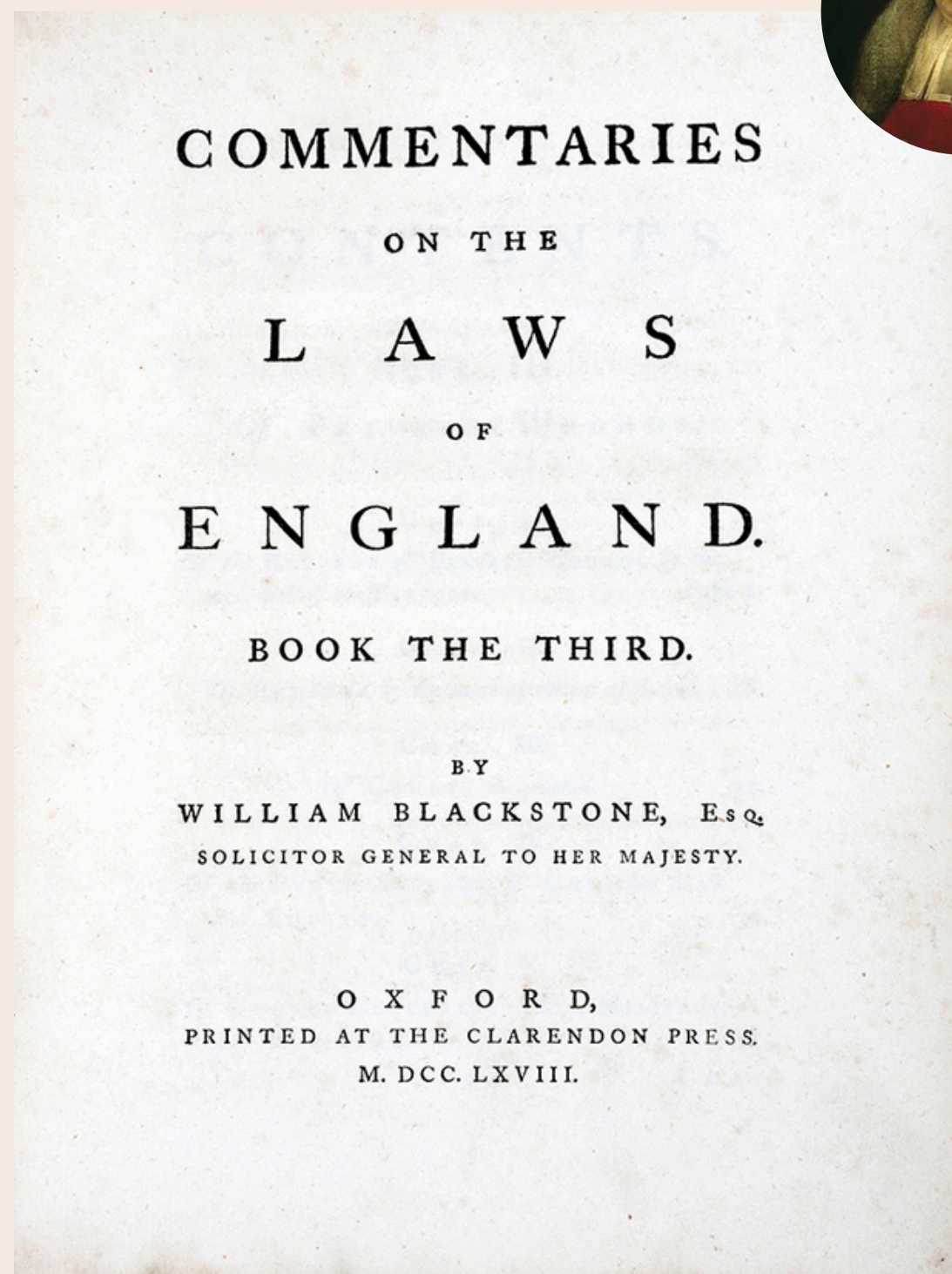


THE SUPREME COURT & THE LAWGIVERS

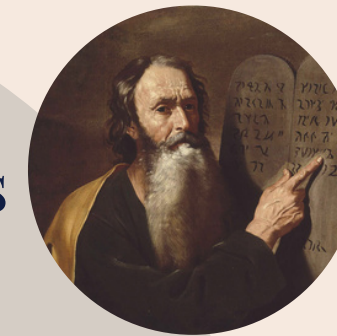


Various lawgivers, including Blackstone, Moses, and Marshall, look over the Supreme Court as it goes about its daily business. They are represented through the west and east wall friezes.

WILLIAM BLACKSTONE



MOSES



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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JOHN MARSHALL



“IT IS EMPHATICALLY THE PROVINCE AND DUTY OF THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT TO SAY WHAT THE LAW IS.”

The History of the Ten Commandments in American Public Education: The Ten Commandments were a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries. Around the year 1688, The New England Primer became the first published American textbook and was the equivalent of a first grade reader. The New England Primer was used in public schools throughout the United States for more than one hundred fifty years to teach Americans to read and contained more than forty questions about the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were also included in public school textbooks published by educator William McGuffey, a noted university president and professor. A version of his famous McGuffey Readers was written in the early 1800s and became one of the most popular textbooks in the history of American education, selling more than one hundred million copies. Copies of the McGuffey Readers are still available today. The Ten Commandments also appeared in textbooks published by Noah Webster in which were widely used in American public schools along with America's first comprehensive dictionary that Webster also published. His textbook, The American Spelling Book, contained the Ten Commandments and sold more than one hundred million copies for use by public school children all across the nation and was still available for use in American public schools in the year 1975.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

&

THE LAWGIVERS



Twenty-three marble relief portraits hanging over the gallery doors of the House Chamber in the U.S. Capitol depict historical figures noted for their work in establishing the principles that underlie American law. Those lawgivers include notable figures like Hammurabi, Solon, and Thomas Jefferson. When the Speaker of the House assumes his position on the dais, he looks directly at yet another lawgiver, Moses. In fact, the Architect of the Capitol emphasizes that the 22 other lawgivers lining the Chamber walls are oriented “so that all look towards the full-face relief of Moses in the center of the north wall.”

MOSES

THE LAWGIVER



SPEAKER

MIKE JOHNSON



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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TEN (DUEL) COMMANDMENTS



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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THE TEN DUEL COMMANDMENTS

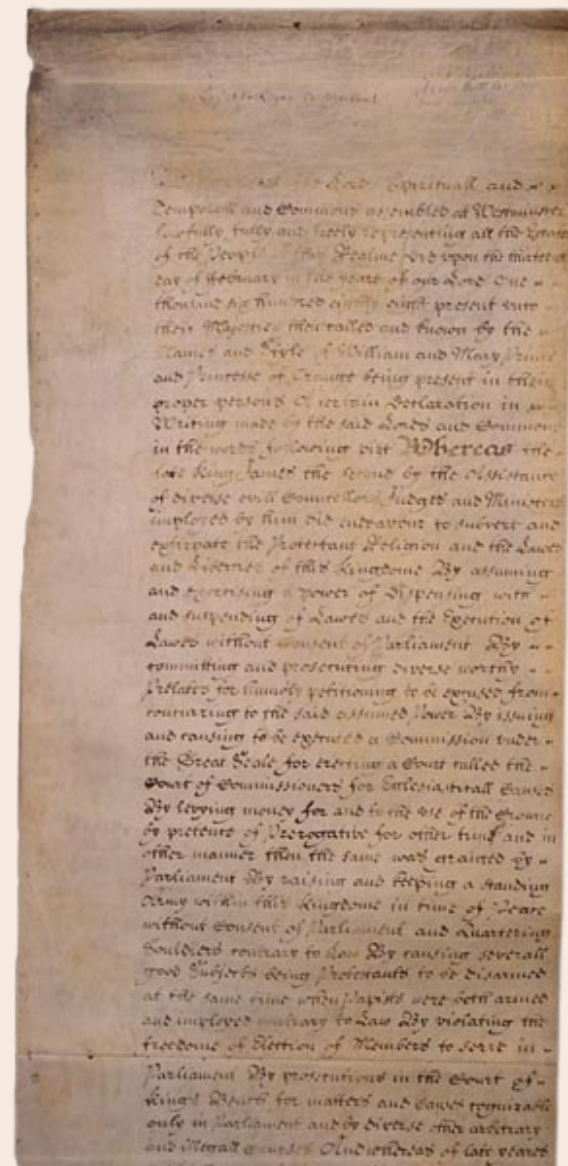
1. DEMAND SATISFACTION
2. GRAB A FRIEND, THAT'S YOUR SECOND
3. NEGOTIATE A PEACE OR TIME AND PLACE
4. GET SOME PISTOLS AND A DOCTOR
5. DUEL BEFORE THE SUN IS IN THE SKY; PICK A PLACE WHERE IT'S HIGH AND DRY
6. LEAVE A NOTE FOR YOUR NEXT OF KIN
7. CONFESS YOUR SINS
8. LAST CHANCE TO NEGOTIATE
9. LOOK THEM IN THE EYE; AIM NO HIGHER
10. COUNT 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 PACES. FIRE!

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“Since the beginning of time, the world has known four great documents, great because of all the benefits to humanity which came about as a result of their fine ideals and principles.”

-RUTH BADER GINSBURG

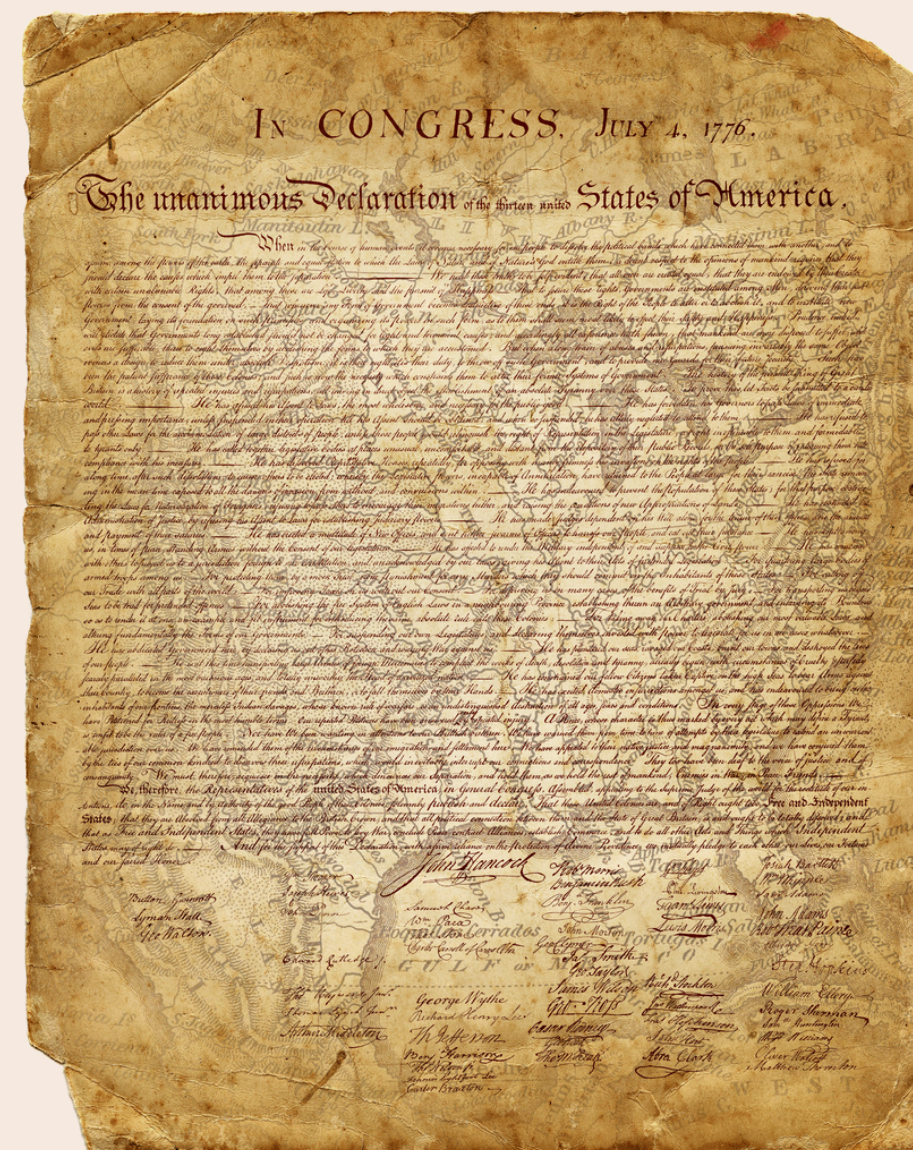


1689 English Bill of Rights

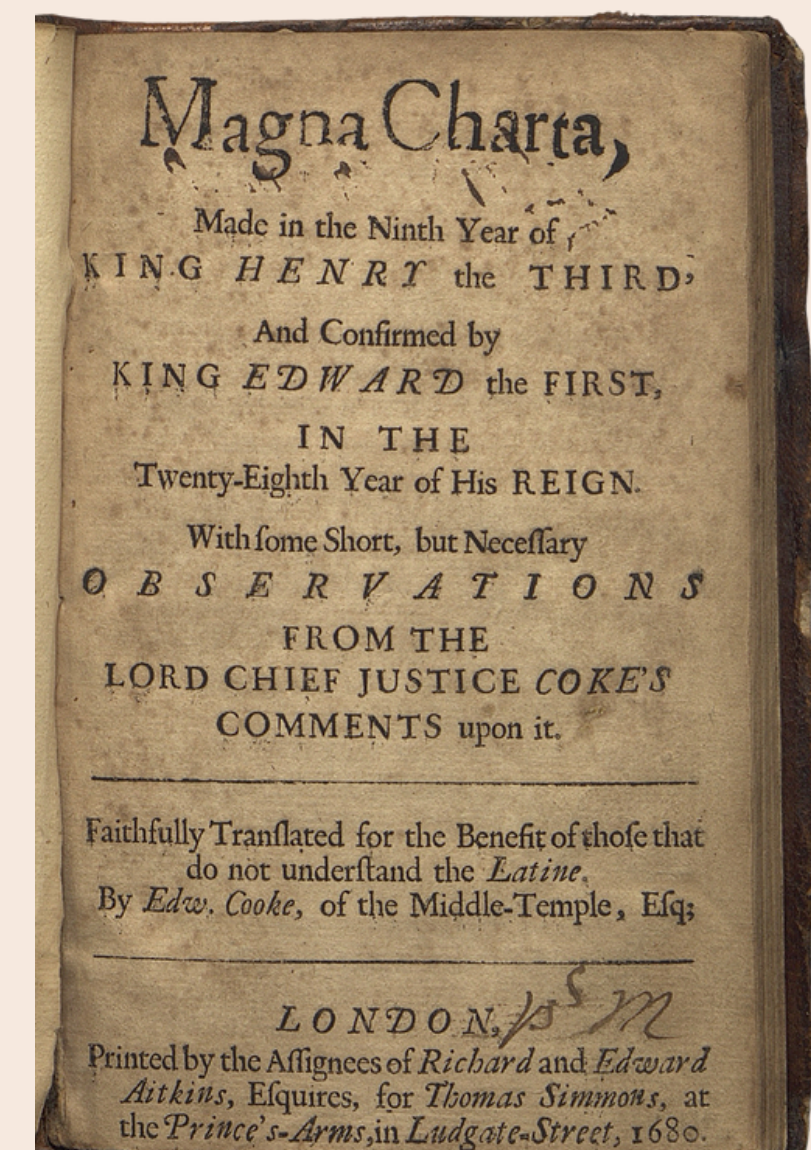
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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Ten Commandments



Declaration of Independence



Magna Carta

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MILK & MOSES



**LIKE MOSES HANDED DOWN THE LAW,
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. REQUIRED
BIRMINGHAM CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS TO
SIGN A COMMITMENT CARD CONSISTING OF
TEN COMMANDMENTS.**

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR NON-VIOLENCE

**MEDITATE DAILY ON THE TEACHINGS AND LIFE OF JESUS.
REMEMBER ALWAYS THAT THE NON-VIOLENT MOVEMENT
SEEKS JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION - NOT VICTORY.
WALK AND TALK IN THE MANNER OF LOVE, FOR GOD IS
LOVE.**

**PRAY DAILY TO BE USED BY GOD IN ORDER THAT ALL MEN
MIGHT BE FREE.**

**SACRIFICE PERSONAL WISHES IN ORDER THAT ALL MEN
MIGHT BE FREE.**

**OBSERVE WITH BOTH FRIEND AND FOE THE ORDINARY
RULES OF COURTESY.**

**SEEK TO PERFORM REGULAR SERVICE FOR OTHERS AND
FOR THE WORLD.**

**REFRAIN FROM THE VIOLENCE OF FIST, TONGUE, OR
HEART.**

**STRIVE TO BE IN GOOD SPIRITUAL AND BODILY HEALTH.
FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF THE MOVEMENT AND OF
THE CAPTAIN ON A DEMONSTRATION.**

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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IMAGES.**

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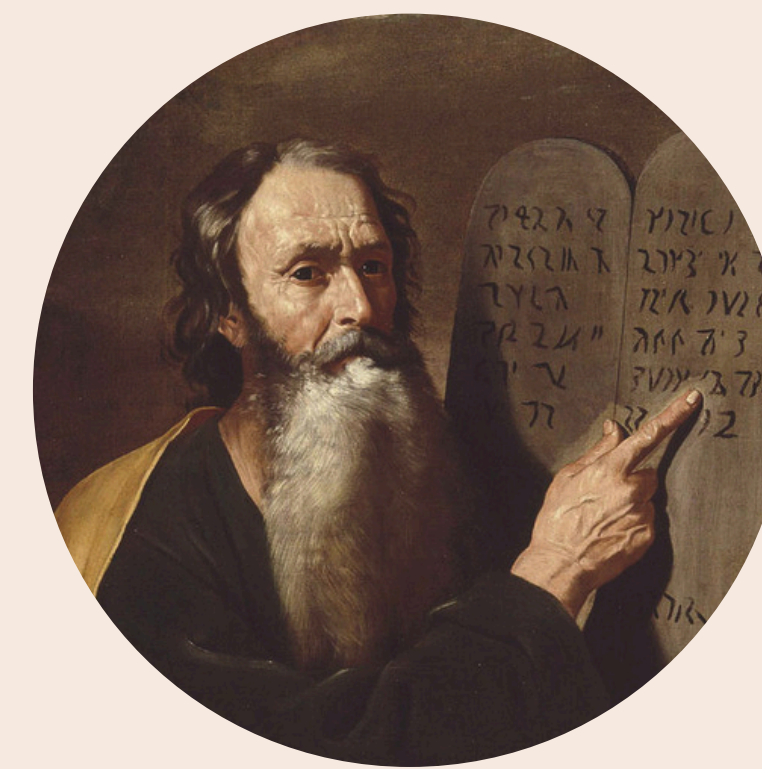
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MARSHALL & MOSES



**“OUR CONSTITUTION IS
THE ENVY OF THE WORLD,
AS IT SHOULD BE FOR IT IS
THE GRAND DESIGN OF
THE FINEST NATION ON
EARTH.”**

- THURGOOD MARSHALL

**“MR. CIVIL RIGHTS,”
SOLICITOR GENERAL OF
THE UNITED STATES,
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE**

**“MR. MARSHALL
BRANDISHED THE
UNITED STATES
CONSTITUTION THE
WAY MOSES
BRANDISHED
THE TEN
COMMANDMENTS.”**

- NEW YORK TIMES

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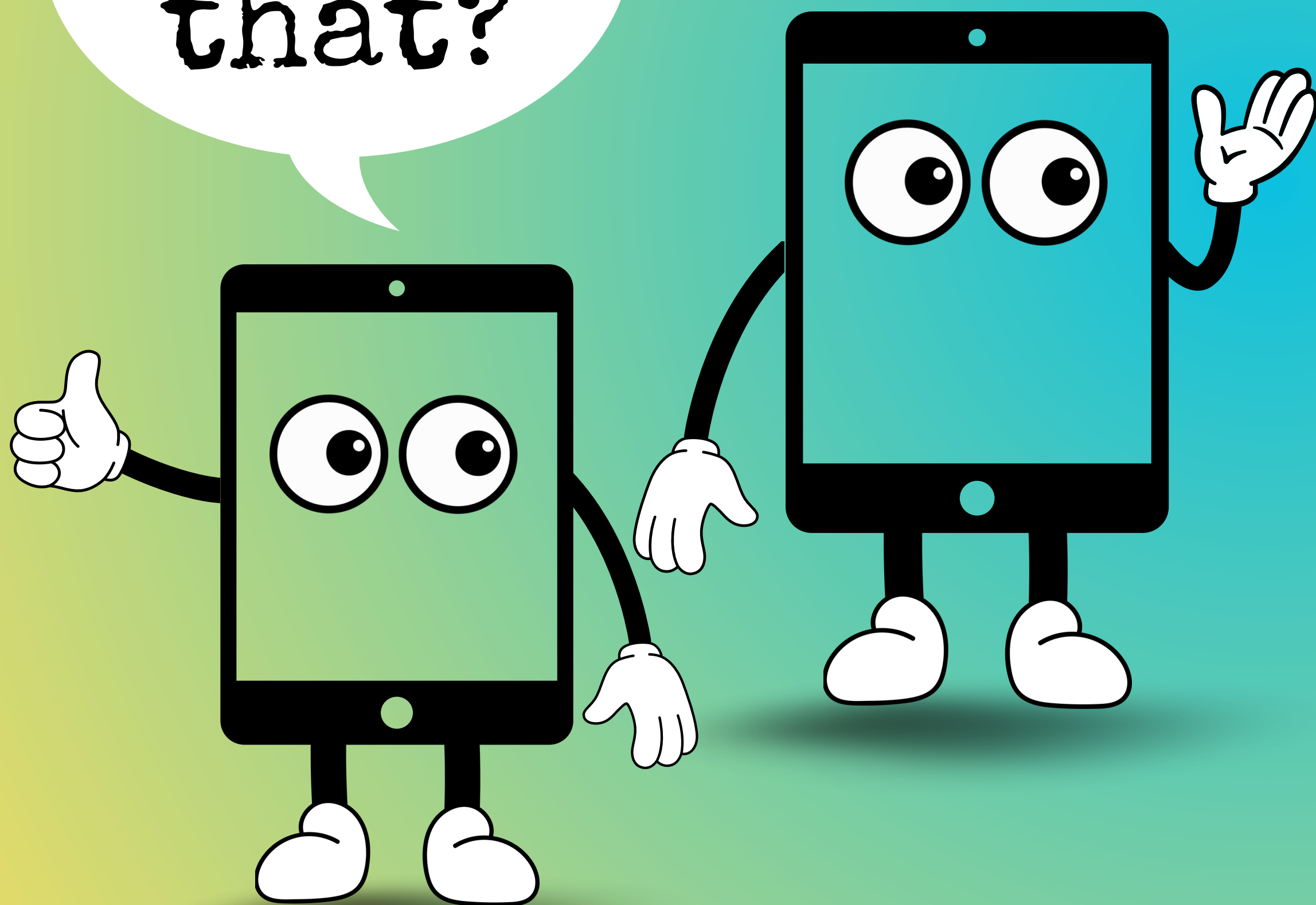
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TABLET HUMOR

What's that?

That was the original tablet.



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EVEN IMPORTANT MEN STUTTER



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

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 THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.
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 IT HOLY.
 HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER,
 THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON
 THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD
 GIVETH THEE.
 THOU SHALT NOT KILL.
 THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
 THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.
 THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS
 AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR.
 THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY
 NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE.
 THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY
 NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, NOR HIS
 MANSERVANT, NOR HIS MAIDSERVANT,
 NOR HIS CATTLE, NOR ANYTHING THAT
 IS THY NEIGHBOR'S.

Stuttering Strategies

1. Slow rate
2. Full
breath
3. Stretch
speech
4. Pausing
and
chunking
5. Light
contacts



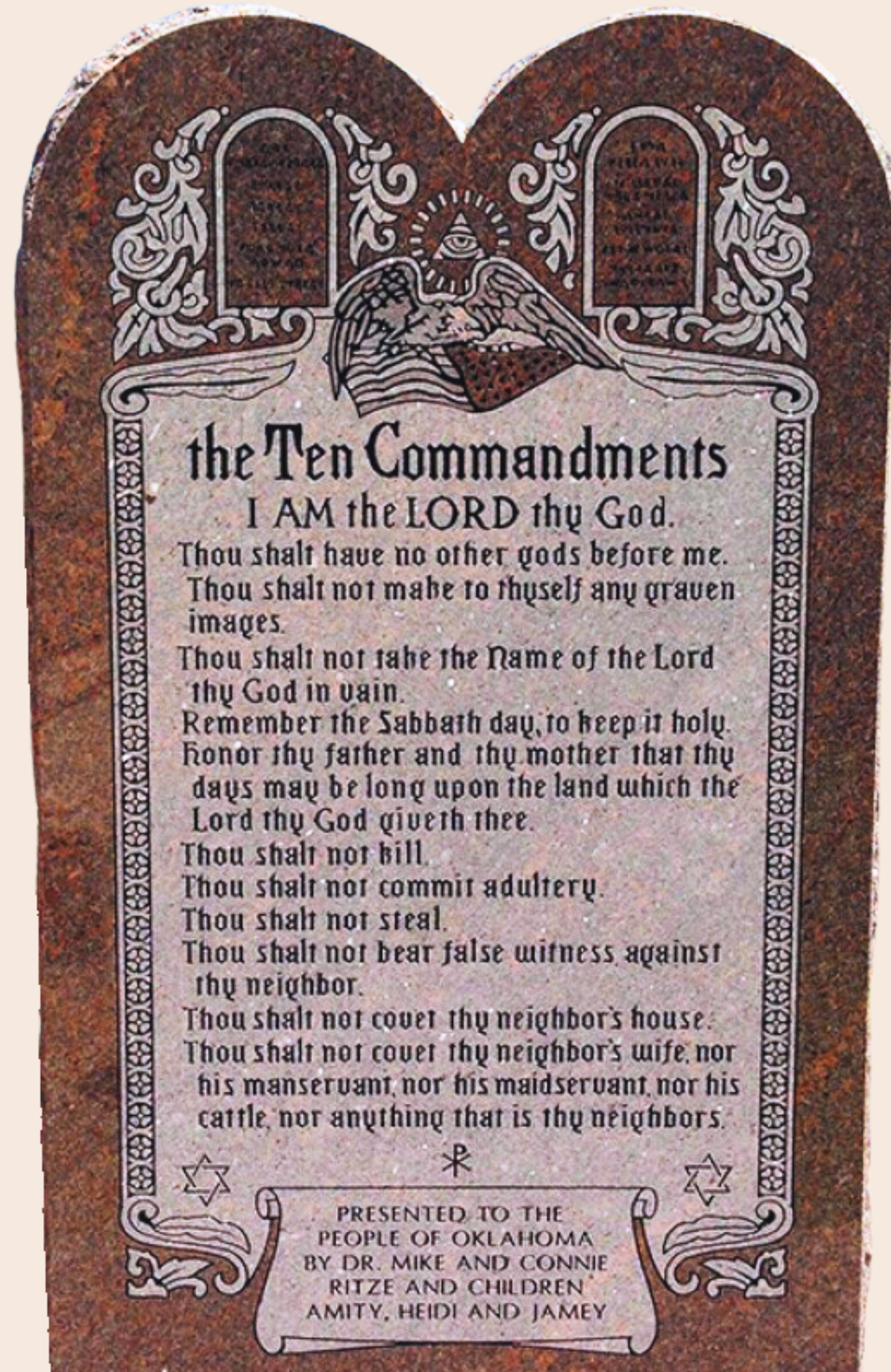
King George VI
 of Britain
 struggled
 with a speech
 impediment.
 He rose to
 lead Britain
 when it
 counted most
 despite his
 stutter.

LEGAL NON-PROFITS IN ACTION

Nonprofit organizations are often some of the most powerful legal forces involved in cutting-edge legislation and litigation across the country, including high-profile First Amendment issues.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
“The ACLU today is the nation’s largest public interest law firm, with a 50-state network of staffed, autonomous affiliate offices.”

FIRST LIBERTY
“First Liberty Institute is the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to defending religious liberty for all Americans.”



EDITORIAL: Satanists and ACLU target Ten Commandments
The Gazette editorial Jan 14, 2014

ACLU of Arkansas Files First Amendment Challenge to Ten Commandments Shrine on Capitol Grounds
Affiliate: ACLU of Arkansas May 23, 2018 10:30 am

ACLU sues Giles County over Ten Commandments display

ACLU sues Dixie County over 10 Commandments

Victory! Oklahoma District Judge Says “Yes!” to Ten Commandments Monument

First Liberty Moves to Stop Attacks Against Ten Commandments Monument

First Liberty Testifies in Support of Texas Ten Commandments Bill

Arkansas Ten Commandments Monument Should Stand, Religious Liberty Law Firm Tells Court

The History of the Ten Commandments in American Public Education: The Ten Commandments were a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries. Around the year 1688, The New England Primer became the first published American textbook and was the equivalent of a first grade reader. The New England Primer was used in public schools throughout the United States for more than one hundred fifty years to teach Americans to read and contained more than forty questions about the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were also included in public school textbooks published by educator William McGuffey, a noted university president and professor. A version of his famous McGuffey Readers was written in the early 1800s and became one of the most popular textbooks in the history of American education, selling more than one hundred million copies. Copies of the McGuffey Readers are still available today. The Ten Commandments also appeared in textbooks published by Noah Webster in which were widely used in American public schools along with America’s first comprehensive dictionary that Webster also published. His textbook, The American Spelling Book, contained the Ten Commandments and sold more than one hundred million copies for use by public school children all across the nation and was still available for use in American public schools in the year 1975.

MEMES AND LAW

ACLU Challenges Posting of Ten Commandments In Kentucky's Schools and Courthouses

Affiliate: [ACLU of Kentucky](#)
November 18, 1999 12:00 am

ACLU sues Giles County over Ten Commandments display

ACLU of Kentucky Files Suit to Stop Placement of Ten Commandments Monument on Capitol Grounds

Affiliate: [ACLU of Kentucky](#)
July 10, 2000 12:00 am

EDITORIAL: Satanists and ACLU target Ten Commandments

The Gazette editorial Jan 14, 2014

ACLU of Kentucky Files Lawsuit Over Government-Endorsed Ten Commandments Postings in Four Counties

Affiliate: [ACLU of Kentucky](#)
November 27, 2001 12:00 am

U.S. SUPREME COURT HANDS FINAL VICTORY TO ACLU-NM IN TEN COMMANDMENTS CASE

ACLU of NE Asks Appeals Court to Uphold Removal of Ten Commandments Monument from Public Park

Affiliate: [ACLU of Nebraska](#)
August 13, 2002 12:00 am

Acting on Behalf of Concerned Residents and Clergy, ACLU of TN Challenges Posting of Ten Commandments in County Buildings

Affiliate: [ACLU of Tennessee](#)
January 29, 2002 12:00 am



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

I AM THE LORD THY GOD.
THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.
THOU SHALT NOT MAKE TO THYSELF ANY GRAVEN IMAGES.
THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.
REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY.
HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER, THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND WHICH THE LORD THY GOD GIVETH THEE.
THOU SHALT NOT KILL.
THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.
THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.
THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR.
THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE.
THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, NOR HIS MANSERVANT, NOR HIS MAIDSERVANT, NOR HIS CATTLE, NOR ANYTHING THAT IS THY NEIGHBOR'S.

ACLU Challenges Oklahoma State Capitol Ten Commandments Monument

Case: [Prescott v. Oklahoma Capitol Preservation Commission](#)
Affiliate: [ACLU of Oklahoma](#)
August 20, 2013 12:00 am

ACLU SUIT PROMPTS SCHOOL BOARD TO ABANDON DISPLAY OF TEN COMMANDMENTS ON SCHOOLHOUSE WALLS

ACLU sues Dixie County over 10 Commandments

ACLU sues Giles County over Ten Commandments display

Federal Appeals Court Hears ACLU Argument Against Government Endorsement of Ten Commandments

Affiliate: [ACLU of Pennsylvania](#)
April 7, 2003 12:00 am

ACLU of Arkansas Files First Amendment Challenge to Ten Commandments Shrine on Capitol Grounds

Affiliate: [ACLU of Arkansas](#)
May 23, 2018 10:30 am

ACLU Sues Over Ten Commandments in Courthouse, Saying Biblical Text Violates Religious Liberty

Affiliate: [ACLU of Ohio](#)
March 12, 2001 12:00 am

The History of the Ten Commandments in American Public Education: The Ten Commandments were a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries. Around the year 1688, The New England Primer became the first published American textbook and was the equivalent of a first grade reader. The New England Primer was used in public schools throughout the United States for more than one hundred fifty years to teach Americans to read and contained more than forty questions about the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were also included in public school textbooks published by educator William McGuffey, a noted university president and professor. A version of his famous McGuffey Readers was written in the early 1800s and became one of the most popular textbooks in the history of American education, selling more than one hundred million copies. Copies of the McGuffey Readers are still available today. The Ten Commandments also appeared in textbooks published by Noah Webster in which were widely used in American public schools along with America's first comprehensive dictionary that Webster also published. His textbook, The American Spelling Book, contained the Ten Commandments and sold more than one hundred million copies for use by public school children all across the nation and was still available for use in American public schools in the year 1975.

IMPORTANT SUPREME COURT CASES

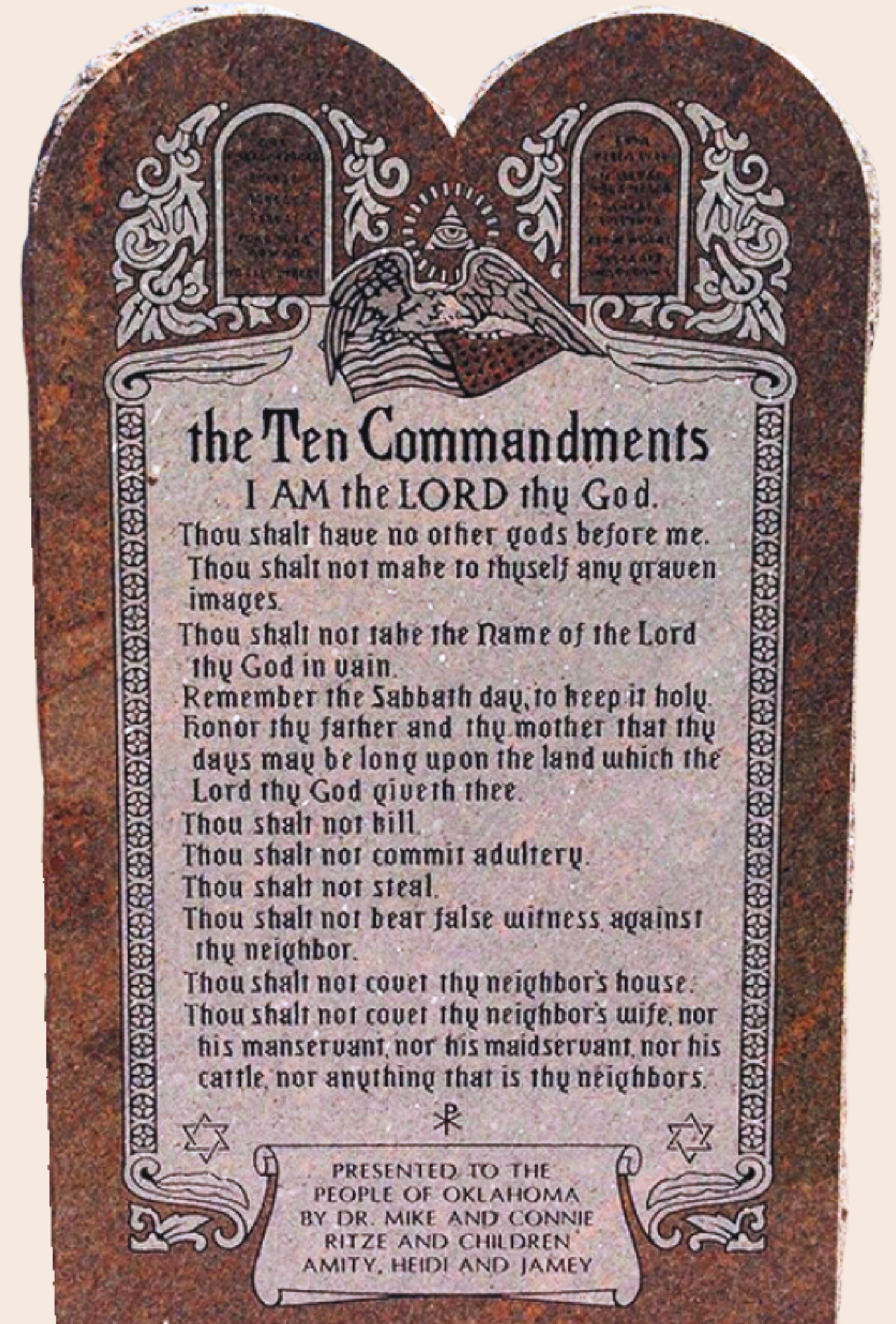
VAN ORDEN V. PERRY

THE SUPREME COURT FOUND NO ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE VIOLATION, WITH THE PLURALITY OPINION EMPHASIZING THAT “ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IN OUR NATION’S HISTORY ARE COMMON THROUGHOUT AMERICA.” THE COURT NOTED THAT MOSES AND THE COMMANDMENTS APPEAR IN THE SUPREME COURT COURTROOM ITSELF, THE GATES LINING THE COURTROOM, AND THE DOORS LEADING INTO THE COURTROOM.

THIS CASE ASKED WHETHER THE ESTABLISHMENT CLAUSE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT ALLOWS THE DISPLAY OF A MONUMENT INSCRIBED WITH THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ON THE TEXAS STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS.

THE MAIN DISSENT JOINED BY JUSTICE GINSBURG AND TWO OTHER JUSTICES DISAGREED WITH THE COURT’S JUDGEMENT, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT “A DISPLAY OF THE COMMANDMENTS ACCOMPANIED BY AN EXPOSITION OF HOW THEY HAVE INFLUENCED MODERN LAW WOULD MOST LIKELY BE CONSTITUTIONALLY UNOBJECTIONABLE.” THE DISSENT ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE COMMANDMENTS COULD “BE INTEGRATED CONSTITUTIONALLY INTO A COURSE OF STUDY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.”

NOTE: THIS IS THE VERSION OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS UPHELD IN VAN ORDEN, BUT DIFFERENT FAITH TRADITIONS ADOPT DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF THE TEXT OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE CATHOLIC VERSION GENERALLY DOES NOT REFERENCE “GRAVEN IMAGES.” AND THE TORAH USES THE PHRASE “I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, OUT OF THE HOUSE OF BONDAGE.”



The History of the Ten Commandments in American Public Education: The Ten Commandments were a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries. Around the year 1688, The New England Primer became the first published American textbook and was the equivalent of a first grade reader. The New England Primer was used in public schools throughout the United States for more than one hundred fifty years to teach Americans to read and contained more than forty questions about the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were also included in public school textbooks published by educator William McGuffey, a noted university president and professor. A version of his famous McGuffey Readers was written in the early 1800s and became one of the most popular textbooks in the history of American education, selling more than one hundred million copies. Copies of the McGuffey Readers are still available today. The Ten Commandments also appeared in textbooks published by Noah Webster in which were widely used in American public schools along with America’s first comprehensive dictionary that Webster also published. His textbook, The American Spelling Book, contained the Ten Commandments and sold more than one hundred million copies for use by public school children all across the nation and was still available for use in American public schools in the year 1975.

HOW DOES THE SUPREME COURT VIEW THE TEN COMMANDMENTS?

FOR BELIEVING JEWS AND CHRISTIANS, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE THE WORD OF GOD HANDED DOWN TO MOSES ON MOUNT SINAI, BUT THE IMAGE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS HAS ALSO BEEN USED TO CONVEY OTHER MEANINGS. THEY HAVE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AS ONE OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR LEGAL SYSTEM, AND FOR LARGELY THAT REASON, THEY ARE DEPICTED IN THE MARBLE FRIEZE IN OUR COURTROOM AND IN OTHER PROMINENT PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL.

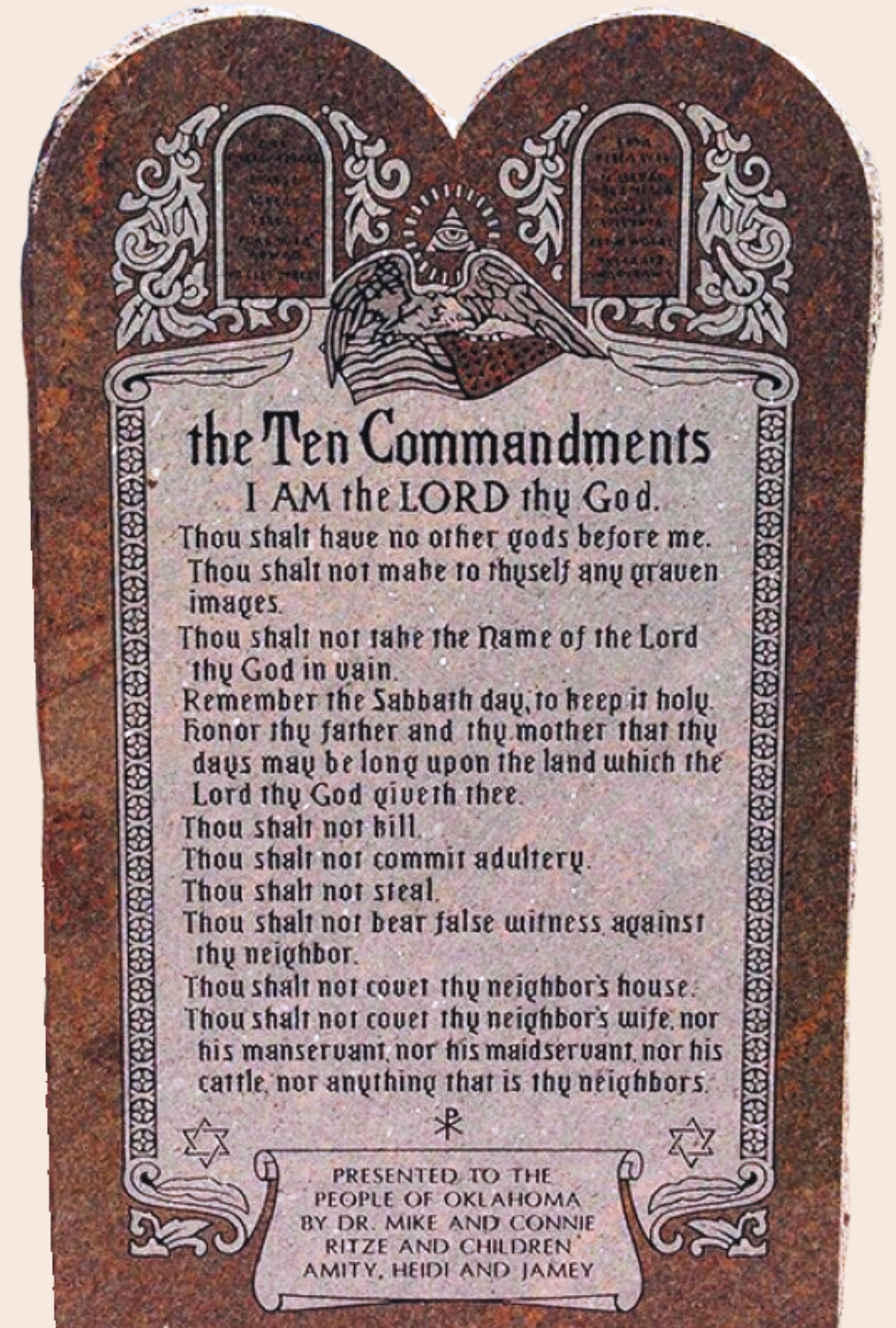
AMERICAN LEGION V. AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION

THIS COURT HAS SUBSCRIBED TO THE VIEW THAT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN LEGAL THOUGHT.

VAN ORDEN V. PERRY DISSENT

A DISPLAY OF THE COMMANDMENTS ACCOMPANIED BY AN EXPOSITION OF HOW THEY HAVE INFLUENCED MODERN LAW WOULD MOST LIKELY BE CONSTITUTIONALLY UNOBJECTIONABLE. AND THE DECALOGUE COULD ... BE INTEGRATED CONSTITUTIONALLY INTO A COURSE OF STUDY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

VAN ORDEN V. PERRY DISSENT



The History of the Ten Commandments in American Public Education: The Ten Commandments were a prominent part of American public education for almost three centuries. Around the year 1688, The New England Primer became the first published American textbook and was the equivalent of a first grade reader. The New England Primer was used in public schools throughout the United States for more than one hundred fifty years to teach Americans to read and contained more than forty questions about the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were also included in public school textbooks published by educator William McGuffey, a noted university president and professor. A version of his famous McGuffey Readers was written in the early 1800s and became one of the most popular textbooks in the history of American education, selling more than one hundred million copies. Copies of the McGuffey Readers are still available today. The Ten Commandments also appeared in textbooks published by Noah Webster in which were widely used in American public schools along with America's first comprehensive dictionary that Webster also published. His textbook, The American Spelling Book, contained the Ten Commandments and sold more than one hundred million copies for use by public school children all across the nation and was still available for use in American public schools in the year 1975.