

December 2018

Publication of the Christian Law Association

THE LEGAL ALERT



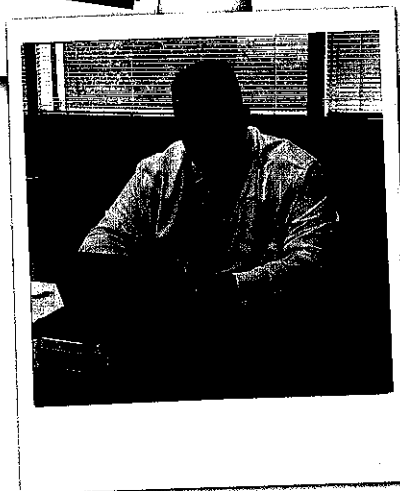
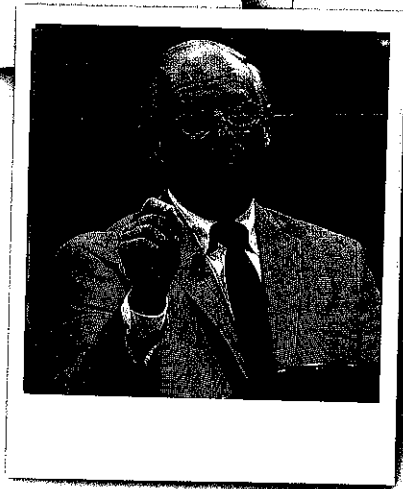
*Merry
Christmas*

Merry Christmas

Is there a war on Christmas in America? The answer is yes – take a look at just a few of the calls we received leading into the Christmas season:

- A fourth grader at the public school was not permitted to read a book about the birth of Jesus, although a Jewish classmate had just read a book explaining Hanukkah.
 - A citizen complained to his city council because the street lamppost decorations included stars and angels.
 - City officials told the private owners of an amusement park that they could not present any entertainment shows that mentioned the meaning of Christmas.
 - Kindergarteners were told they could not sing Christmas carols in school during the holidays.
- Police ordered the local firehouse to take down its Christmas tree after neighbors claimed offense. Citizens were forced to sue their state to challenge a policy that disallowed any ornaments with a religious theme on the state's official Christmas tree, despite that other citizens were allowed to place ornaments with secular messages.





Americans Support Christmas

Despite what you see in the news today, the truth of the matter is that the vast majority of Americans still support Christmas and what it stands for. A recent survey found that 90% of Americans still celebrate Christmas, with 55% of those viewing Christmas as a religious holiday rather than simply cultural. 66% of Americans believe that Jesus Christ was born to a virgin. Additionally, only 26% of Americans believe that Christian displays should not be allowed on government property.

This Christmas season, remember that the majority of Americans still believe in standing up for Christmas as the religious holiday that it is. Make sure you give a hearty "Merry Christmas!" to all you meet.

Public Christmas Displays

In *Lynch v. Donnelly*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that nativity scenes and other religious symbols may be included, as part of a larger holiday display on public property. The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the crèche because it was one part of a larger Christmas display, which included numerous secular symbols.

Christmas in Public Schools

Generally, students are free to discuss the religious origins of Christmas with their peers during non-instructional periods of the school day. Students also have the right to express their religious views regarding Christmas during a class discussion, writing assignment, or other activity. This must be relevant to the subject being discussed and comply with the assignment requirements.



IRS Launches Instagram Account to Help Taxpayers

The IRS social media account, www.instagram.com/irsnews, will provide taxpayers the latest information on a variety of topics as taxpayers face numerous tax law changes for 2019.

This year's tax reform has brought about some significant changes. It is our privilege to advise and walk you through the tax process.

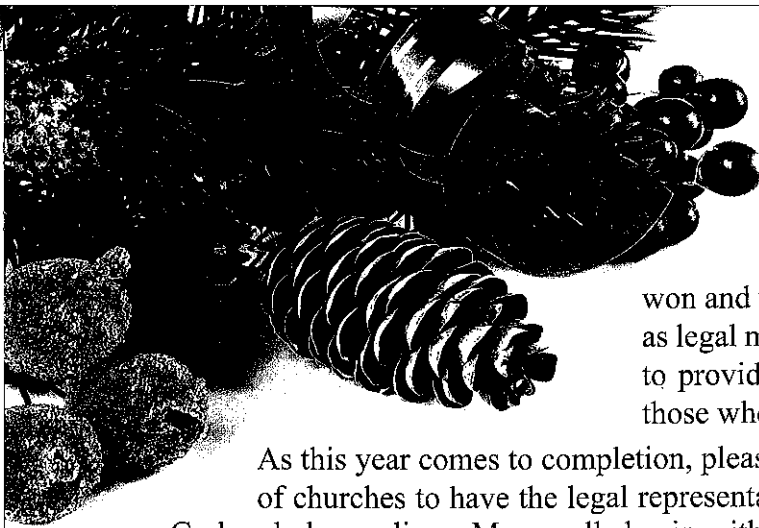
Let us help you understand the changes that could affect you - including the following:

- Change in Tax Brackets and Tax Rates
- Change to the Child Tax Credit
- Change to the Healthcare Penalty
- Change to the Standard Deduction

Sign up today to receive email updates about legislation and legal tips from our attorneys.

CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION 
EMAIL ALERT





CHRISTMAS SEASON

Each year at this time, we reflect on the goodness of the Lord to us and our ministry. We look at the legal cases won and the souls saved and see how very blessed we are to minister as legal missionaries. Over this year, God has done miraculous things to provide our needs. We wanted to add a special thank you to all those who give to make our mission happen.

As this year comes to completion, please know that your prayers and gifts have allowed thousands of churches to have the legal representation they need. Your kindness is used to move the hand of God and change lives. Many calls begin with "I don't know if we can pay you, but..." and we are able to reassure them that there is no charge. Your financial blessings make it possible for others to continue serving the Lord. Financial burdens hinder many ministries, but through your generosity, others are able to persevere and do what God has called them to do.

This month we celebrate Christmas, recognizing this holiday as a remembrance of our Savior's birth. When the angels made this announcement to the shepherds in Luke 2, they said *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.* One of the primary goals of this legal ministry is to peacefully promote Jesus Christ and help others to do the same. Although peace is not a term commonly used in the legal field, we know that Jesus' birth initiated the process of redemption through His blood, bringing peace to all who accept God's free gift of salvation. May God bless you this Christmas season!



ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LAW ASSOCIATION

The Christian Law Association is a ministry of legal helps.

CLA serves you the following ways:

- Free legal defense of those facing difficulties for the Biblical faith
- Free legal counsel to churches and Christians for their ministries
- Legal seminars for ministries to help prevent lawsuits
- Preaching in churches across the country
- Legal books and other resources to inform Christians of their rights
- Weekday radio program broadcast, *The Legal Alert*, on over 1,400 outlets around the world
- Publication of *The Legal Alert*, a monthly newsletter
- Free legal consulting to local, state, and federal officials and legislators to provide maximum religious liberty
- Intercessory prayer ministry for requests sent to the ministry offices
- Free legal help to homeschooling families
- Prayer initiative for our national leadership and government

Cover: Joy Gibbs

L to R: Dr. David Gibbs, Jr. with Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Sharon Giddings, James and Vivian Coates, Charlotte Cover, Staff with President Trump. Page 2: Kluth granddaughters, Dr. Steve Kluth, Susan Ojeda, Seth Kraus, Steve Decker. Page 3: Peggy Gray and Ethan Roberts, Stephen and Cristia Peterson, Kayla Kanniard, Jonathan Gibbs and family, Glorianne Gibbs and Joy Gibbs, Dennis and Lisa Moravek, Seth Haught and family.

PRAYER CHECKLIST

- ✓ Please pray for our attorneys as they assist a church in **GEORGIA** in updating the church's bylaws to better protect the church and its ministries.
- ✓ Pray for our legal team helping a church in **WEST VIRGINIA** deal with two companies attempting to unlawfully levy fees against the church.
- ✓ Please pray as our attorneys legally help a church in **ILLINOIS** as it prepares for special ministry safety training for the security of children involved with the church's ministries.
- ✓ Praise the Lord an **OHIO** pastor was able to speak with our attorney at no charge to learn what items are considered taxable income.
- ✓ Praise the Lord that CLA was able to help believers start a new mission work in **TENNESSEE** which will be focusing on assisting the homeless and those recovering from addictive substances.
- ✓ Pray for a church in **SOUTH CAROLINA** that called our office needing legal insight into payroll processes for that ministry.
- ✓ Pray for a **NORTH CAROLINA** ministry getting legal direction from CLA attorneys about incorporation and its benefits.
- ✓ Please pray for a Christian photographer in **TENNESSEE** who called CLA for legal guidance on how to run their photography business in ways that would honor and glorify God.
- ✓ Please pray as our legal team assists a fire department chaplain in **CALIFORNIA** undergoing persecution and discrimination for simply doing his job.
- ✓ Pray for our attorneys assisting Christians in **FLORIDA** facing discrimination from their secular university because of their Christian testimonies.
- ✓ Pray for all of those affected by the **CALIFORNIA** fires and for churches and ministries to effectively share both physical needs and spiritual guidance during this difficult time.
- ✓ Pray for a Christian worker in **WISCONSIN** who called CLA because he is being discriminated against in the workplace simply because he is a Christian.
- ✓ Please pray as we assist a Christian in **ILLINOIS** working with a local school superintendent to get Bible classes taught as an elective in area public schools.
- ✓ Pray for our attorneys helping a Christian in **NEW HAMPSHIRE** who is under fire for having Scripture on his signature line for work emails, even though others include famous quotations and other statements without reprimand.
- ✓ Praise the Lord that CLA was able to help a ministry in **GEORGIA**. They were able to have their important policies reviewed by a CLA attorney, including child abuse prevention and security procedures.
- ✓ Pray as we help a bi-vocational pastor in **FLORIDA** facing reprimands for discussing Biblical topics with other Christians while at work.