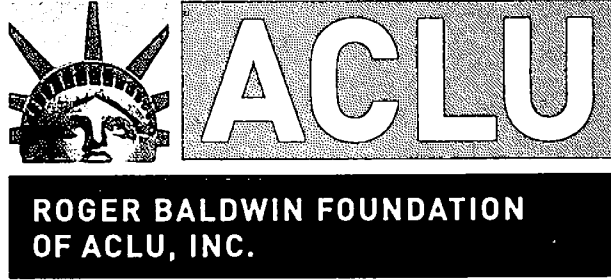


THE  
ROGER  
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FOUNDATION  
OF ACLU,  
INC.

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180 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE  
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(312) 201-9740  
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December 1, 2010

**VIA FACSIMILE (618-252-6905) AND U.S. MAIL**

Jim Fowler  
Saline County Board Chairman  
Saline County Courthouse  
10 E. Poplar St.  
Harrisburg, IL 62946

Re: Proposed Ten Commandments Display

Dear Chairman Fowler:

I write on behalf of the ACLU of Illinois, and its 20,000 members and supporters, to urge Saline County not to erect a Ten Commandments display on Saline County Courthouse property. News articles state that the county is considering such a display. *See, e.g., Eric Fodor, "County Board may put Ten Commandments monument to popular vote," Daily Register (10/29/10).*

The Ten Commandments are highly religious. According to Christians and Jews, God gave them to Moses on Mount Sinai. Many of the commandments are purely religious, such as the ban on idol worship. Some of these religious commandments contradict the religious and other beliefs of millions of polytheistic and non-theistic Americans. Thus, when government displays the Ten Commandments on its own property, it endorses the religious beliefs of some Americans, while sending the message that other Americans are outsiders and second-class citizens. Accordingly, courts have struck down such displays. *See, e.g., McCreary County v. ACLU of Kentucky, 545 U.S. 844 (2005) (striking down a Ten Commandments display at a courthouse); Stone v. Graham, 449 U.S. 39 (1980) (striking down Ten Commandments displays in public schools).*

The ACLU urges Saline County not to endorse the religious beliefs of some Americans by erecting a Ten Commandments display on Saline County Courthouse property. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (312) 201-9740, extension 316.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adam Schwartz'.

Adam Schwartz

cc: Saline County Board Members  
Willie McClusky, Saline County Clerk  
Michael Henshaw, Saline County State's Attorney