

Liberty Watch

Pharmacists Challenge Order to Give 'Plan B' Pill

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) filed suit on behalf of two pharmacists challenging Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich's order requiring pharmacists to dispense medication even if the drugs violate their religious beliefs or conscience. The move came after two pharmacists refused to dispense morning-after birth control pills, invoking their "right of conscience," which they believed was protected by the state's Health Care Right of Conscience Act, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. The governor said the act does not cover the pharmacists and said refusing to dispense the pills denies a woman her right to health care. The ACLJ is asking a state court to declare Blagojevich's emergency order null and void.

Lawsuit Against Jews For Jesus Dismissed

A second lawsuit filed against Jews for Jesus (JFJ) by a woman who claims she was wrongly said to have accepted Christ in a 2002 ministry newsletter has been dismissed. Liberty Counsel, which represented JFJ, said Florida Circuit Court Judge Catherine Brunson dismissed Edith Rapp's claims that she had been defamed by the praise report her stepson wrote, in which he said she became a "Jewish believer." A previous judge dismissed a lawsuit Rapp filed in May 2004, after her husband's 2003 death. She later refiled portions of the suit. Those claims have also been dismissed. At press time Rapp had filed another lawsuit against JFJ. Liberty Counsel said it planned to file a motion to dismiss the third lawsuit.

School Board Sued for Praying at Meetings

The ACLU is suing members of a Delaware school board for opening monthly business meetings with prayer, AgapePress reported. The civil liberties

group claims the actions of Reginald Helms, vice president of Indian River School District Board of Education, and his colleagues are unconstitutional. "I think there is Supreme Court precedent to say that these are legislative type prayers ... so we're hoping that in the end it will be upheld as constitutional," John Whitehead, head of the Rutherford Institute, which is representing the board members, told AgapePress.