

# SOUTHEAST LAW INSTITUTE™

1200 Corporate Drive, Suite 107  
Highway 280 - Meadow Brook Corporate Park  
Birmingham, Alabama 35242

Telephone: (205) 408-8893  
Facsimile: (205) 408-8894

E-mail: [AEJ@SoutheastLawInstitute.org](mailto:AEJ@SoutheastLawInstitute.org)  
[www.southeastlawinstitute.org](http://www.southeastlawinstitute.org)

January 2004

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are beginning the new year with a great deal to do. Over the Christmas holidays we had a significant complaint about a public school removing the "Christmas" aspects from the "holiday season". The word "Christmas" could not even be used, not to mention anything more religiously serious. We have provided legal advice to several parents. We hope the problems will be resolved amicably. We will give you a report, as we are able.

No doubt, there were problems in other public schools. If you are aware of any such problems, please refer them to us. We would like to investigate them. If children's constitutional rights were violated this year, we want to keep it from happening again next year.

This month's Educational Update deals with religious freedom. We certainly hope unconstitutional burdens are not placed on religious freedom in Alabama. If it is, our job is to appropriately respond. SLI's first response is through reason and diplomacy. If, however, those efforts are rebuffed, we resort to stronger measures. We hope that our reports and educational updates serve as a warning to those who would violate constitutional rights, whether willfully or merely through ignorance.

We are also in the later stages of drafting and reviewing legislation for the 2004 regular session of Alabama legislature, which begins February 3, 2004. In the next month or so we will provide a report to you on the pro-family legislation that has been introduced, as well as the anti-family legislation which is certain to be introduced.

With all of this work piling up, we need to spend significant resources. As you know, SLI is one hundred percent supported through tax-deductible contributions. We do not do fund raisers and the great majority of our support comes from individuals. Will you please think about how much we must do this year and support us with your most generous contribution? We appreciate continuing monthly support or one-time gifts. Remember also your contribution of \$12 helps to cover the yearly expense of publishing and mailing the newsletter each month.

Looking forward to a great and rewarding year, on behalf of the Southeast Law Institute, I am,

Yours Very Truly,

A. Eric Johnston  
General Counsel

AEJ/mc

*The Southeast Law Institute, Inc.™ is a 501(c)(3) organization providing legal counsel on constitutional and public policy issues.*