

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Western Center Pledges its Support in the Fight to Restore Parental Rights to
Families Affected by Recent Home School Decision**

The Western Center for Law & Policy has pledged to join with other pro-family organizations to oppose the recent California appellate court's sweeping ruling in the *In re Rachel L* case which undermines the rights of parents to make decisions regarding the education of their children.

The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in Los Angeles recently handed down a decision effectively banning home schooling in the State of California unless the student is tutored in their home by someone who is credentialed for the grade being taught. The ruling was based on a narrow reading of existing statutes and caselaw, and exhibited an unprecedented hostility towards the rights of parents and private home schools. The WCLP will lend its support to a petition for review by the California Supreme Court of the appellate decision, and if review is granted, will also file an amicus brief to the California Supreme Court challenging the opinion.

Dean Broyles, President of the Western Center, states, "Our children are not mere creatures of the state. It is the parents, not state bureaucrats, who have the fundamental responsibility and right to direct the care and education of their children." Broyles added, "I am deeply concerned with the Court's thinly veiled contempt towards the rights of parents and religious freedom embodied its opinion. We applaud Governor Schwarzenegger and Superintendent O'Connell for acting quickly to publicly speak out against this misguided ruling and in favor of the parental rights of all Californians."

As study after study has shown, home schooling is a very effective educational option. As Time magazine recently noted, home schooled students are often much better educated than their peers and have been increasingly recruited by colleges and universities.

For more information about what your rights are with respect to the home school issue or other matters involving parental rights or religious freedom, please contact the WCLP at 760-747-4529 or visit our website at www.wclplaw.org.

The Western Center for Law & Policy (WCLP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) legal defense organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of religious freedom, parental rights, and other civil liberties. The WCLP engages in constitutional litigation in state and federal courts and is also active in the areas of public policy and education.

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