

FOR USE IN WEEK STARTING

April 11, 2011

# FACTS OF LAW

(photo)

By \_\_\_\_\_

NOTICE

COLUMNS MAY BE USED ONLY DURING THIS  
QUARTER, FOR WHICH LICENSE FEES, AS BILLED,  
HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL.

The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to take a New Jersey case dealing with public schools and religious music. At issue is a policy of the South Orange-Maplewood School District that insists that teachers omit celebratory religious music from public performances during holidays. The U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled that this school policy was not hostile to religion and that federal courts should generally leave these sorts of decisions to school officials.

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An estimated 10,000 Georgia residents suffering from mental illness or developmental disabilities may no longer be segregated in state hospitals that set them apart from the community, according to a settlement between Georgia and Justice Department lawyers who enforce the Americans with Disabilities Act. This ends a long-running lawsuit triggered by a Supreme Court decision more than a decade ago.

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In Florida, newly-elected or appointed condo board members must complete an educational course certified by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation or sign a statement that they have read Florida Statute 718 and all of their community's governing documents.

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A new Oklahoma law requires public schools to give financial support to special-needs students who transfer to private schools.

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(name, address, phone)