

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

MICHAEL NEWDOW, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

HON. JOHN ROBERTS, JR., *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil case No. 1:08-cv-02248-RBW

**PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT, APPENDIX G
REDACTED DECLARATIONS OF NEW INDIVIDUAL PLAINTIFFS
#6 OF 8 (R-S)**

MICHAEL NEWDOW

In pro per and pro hac vice

PO BOX 233345

SACRAMENTO, CA 95823

(916) 427-6669

NewdowLaw@gmail.com

ROBERT V. RITTER

DC BAR #414030

AHA – 1777 T STREET, NW

WASHINGTON, DC 20009

(202) 238-9088

BRitter@americanhumanist.org

I, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York.

I am a member of The Society for Ethical Culture .
I consider myself a humanist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1989, 1993, and 2005 on television at my home.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home, and later on the Internet.

As I watched this inauguration, I felt alienated by the frequent use of Christian references, and I wondered why the separation of church and state is not honored in this ceremony.

Being 38 years old, I expect to witness many future inaugurations during my lifetime. I also have a 6 year old daughter who will grow up learning to be ethical in a way that does not include organized religion, but is based on my own personal beliefs about respect and kindness for all people. I would like her to feel included, rather than alienated, by our national ceremonies.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 19, 2009.

I, _____ declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Georgia.
2. I am a member of Atheist Alliance International.
3. I consider myself an atheist.
4. I have watched the 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, and 2009 Presidential Inaugurations on TV with my family.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack O'Bama on live TV in my home with my wife and children.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I was disturbed by the addition of words by Chief Justice John Roberts to the presidential pledge given in our constitution. I think it an abuse of his position to impose religious elements on our precious, secular ceremony and celebration.
7. Being 30 years old, I expect to witness 14 more Presidential Inauguration Ceremonies.
8. I have four young children, ages 1, 3, 5, and 7; all of whom watched the 2008 Presidential Inauguration Ceremony either with us or in their school classes. I feel my own efforts to educate my children concerning the value of secular government were undermined by the unconstitutional additions by Chief Justice John Roberts. I believe calling up on "god" by our governmental officials, when serving in their official capacities, encourages thinking and practices which are contrary to reason, human progress, and reality. Also, mentioning "god" in our national ceremonies necessarily alienates the 14% of us proud, responsible American citizens who do not find it unnecessary to believe in a deity of any sort.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 19, 2009.

I, Robert C. Rapp, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I am a member of Pennsylvania Nonbelievers.

I consider myself an atheist.

I have watched - either live or a taped recording of - every presidential inauguration at my home since 1993.

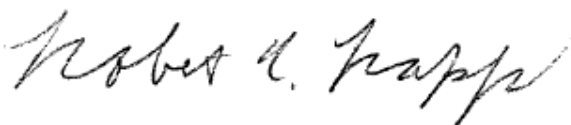
I took a day off work on January 20, 2009 to watch the inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home.

As I watched this inauguration, I was dismayed to hear the religious incantations spoken by clergy who spoke before and after Mr. Obama's swearing-in. Moreover, I was especially appalled by the action of Chief Justice Roberts when, after reciting the oath of office as written in the US Constitution, he ad-libbed the question: "so help you God?". If the Chief Justice is permitted to alter the presidential oath in this fashion, there is no end to what he could presumably say in such a blatant off-the-cuff manner. The founders wrote the oath, or affirmation, exactly as they deemed it should be spoken; for Justice Roberts to alter it in order to satisfy his personal religious whim is an insult to them, and to the Constitution itself.

Being 55 years old, I expect to witness five more inaugurations during my lifetime. I would hope that these last few ceremonies, and all those that follow after, be bereft of such overtly religious trappings.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 17, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Rapp". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Robert C. Rapp
420 Shelley's Lane
Etters PA 17319-9414

I, Robert Francis Ready, Jr., declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Iowa.

I am a member of the American Humanist Association, a Board Member of the Iowa Secularists and a Board Member of Camp Quest Minnesota.

I consider myself an atheist and a humanist.

I have watched past inaugurations on a television in my home in 2001 and 2005, and watched the 2009 Inauguration of Barack Obama on the internet. I also read transcripts of the proceedings.

At these inaugurations, I watched religious leaders take a stage at a public ceremony to pray in the name of Jesus, a divine being that millions of Americans, including myself, do not believe in, from behind a podium bearing the Seal of the President of the United States.

I witnessed the addition of the words, "So help me, God," not included in the Constitution of the United States, to the Presidential Oath by Chief Justice Roberts, indicating that my word or oath, as a person unable to swear on any scripture holy to me or call upon the providence of any divine being I believe in, is automatically less trustworthy as than the oath of another who will call on divine aid.

I heard the United States, in a public ceremony by a Constitutionally-mandated secular government established and maintained partly on my authority as one of "We the People of the United States," on a national stage erected on public land before the very seat of government, in the shadow of monuments to the greatest champions of Liberty and Freedom of mind and body in this nation's history, tell me that my thoughts, my beliefs, my rights and my very freedoms are less valid, less important and less worthy than the thoughts and beliefs of those who believe in the divine; that my right to not be forced into religious observance is to be ignored when a large or popular group utilizes the government as a vehicle to advocate, spread and celebrate their religious beliefs.

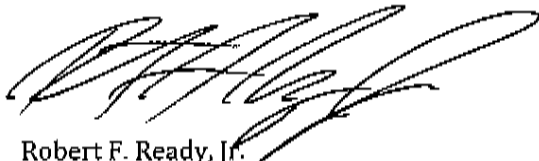
I saw that my lack of belief in a god makes me not entitled to all the rights and privileges of a citizen of the United State, as some rights and privileges are reserved for only those who believe in God.

Being 26 years old, I expect and hope to witness at least ten more Presidential Inaugurations.

In defense of my rights and in opposition to events I witnessed and outlined above, I join my cause to that of the Plaintiffs in *Newdow v. Roberts*.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 18, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Ready, Jr.', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending from the end.

Robert F. Ready, Jr.
4425 Mills Civic Pkwy #1305
West Des Moines, IA 50265

I, Gregory L. Reeder, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Colorado.

I am a member of Freedom From Religion Foundation and American Humanist Association. I am an assistant organizer of Denver Atheists & Freethinkers and a board member of Humanists of Colorado.

I consider myself an atheist and a humanist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1993 and 2001 on television at my home.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home.

As I watched this inauguration, I felt marginalized by the constant references to faith and belief during the event.

Being 42 years old, I expect to witness ten future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 18, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory L. Reeder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" being more prominent than the last name "Reeder".

Gregory L. Reeder
2190 S. Downing St.
Denver, CO 80210

I, _____ declare as follows

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Massachusetts.

I am a member of the Council for Secular Humanism.

I hold a Humanist viewpoint based upon sound scientific principles and observed reality. These beliefs encompass the ideals of self-determination, moral excellence, service to others, and the care of our shared environment.

I have watched Presidential Inaugurations on TV in nearly all cases since my eligibility to vote in 1972.

I and my children (twins, age 6) watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama broadcast on PBS. The children were especially interested in this event and had discussed the new President in their school.

As a parent I take considerable care as to what media my children are exposed to. Violence, depiction of war, inappropriate sexual content, and religion are filtered out. It never occurred to me that I should have to censor something as important as our nation's Presidential Inauguration. My time on the mute button began with various references to "god bless America" and reached a crescendo with the oration of a rather lengthy "prayer", one complete with prolific references to "god", "heavenly father", and "so help me god". These displays belong in a house of worship, not within such a solemn and important government process as this.

I pressed the "mute" button but not soon enough. Now my children are asking what "god" means, a discussion, like that of how babies are made, I wanted to leave for later when their intellectual development can properly discern fact from fiction; reality from nonsense.

As a citizen, I found this mix of religion in our government a violation of my rights. Plus, I felt like an outsider. I asked myself, "Has the Principle of Separation been abandoned?" If there was a vote, I missed it.

At age 53 I may witness but a few more Presidential Inaugurations, but my children will see many more. In future I'd like this ceremony to be free of religious references, for their sake, and the sake of our shared freedom.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

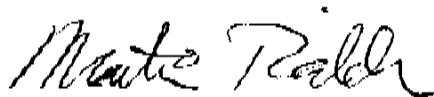
Executed on this SIXTEENTH Day of FEBRUARY 2009

I, Martin Ridder, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New Jersey.
2. I am a member of the Freedom from Religion Foundation.
3. I consider myself an atheist.
4. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television.
5. As I watched this inauguration, I was dismayed to find myself forced to listen to members of my secular government mention the term God in the Presidential oath, implying that there is such a creature, which I believe does not exist.
6. Being 44 years old, I expect to witness about ten future inaugurations during my lifetime.
7. As the official oath of the President of the United States, as stated in the U.S. Constitution, does not include the words "so help me God", I believe those words should not be uttered during the swearing in ceremony.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 21, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Ridder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Martin" and last name "Ridder" clearly distinguishable.

Martin Ridder
70 Pleasant Valley Road
Washington, NJ 07882

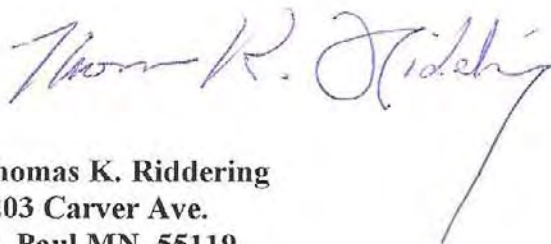
Ridder70@comcast.net

I, Thomas K. Riddering, declare as follows:

- 1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Minnesota.**
- 2. I am a member of Minnesota Atheists and former chair of the board of directors.**
- 3. I consider myself to be an atheist and humanist.**
- 4. I have watched the inaugurations of 1993, 1997, 2001 and 2005 on television.**
- 5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama several times on television and on the internet to savor the change in direction the new president was setting for the country.**
- 6. As I watched this inauguration, I was repeatedly offended by the religiousity of the ceremony. Despite the prohibition in Article 6 against any religious test for any office and the First Amendment's prohibition of government establishment of religion, Chief Justice Roberts decided to modify the Constitutionally prescribed oath of office by adding "so help me god" at the end. This gratuitous pandering to Christians and insult to atheists and secular humanists tells me that I'm a second rate citizen if I don't share in the superstitious beliefs of the majority. If Chief Justice Roberts had said, "So help me Allah" millions of Christians would have been incensed by this deliberate slight to their religious beliefs and its implication that this nation was a Muslim nation. I felt similarly insulted by Chief Justice Roberts' invocation of his favorite diety.**
- 7. Being sixty two years old, I expect to witness at least five future inaugurations during my lifetime.**
- 8. My granddaughter, age two, will be watching the 2013 and future inagurations and future inagurations and I would not want it to be demonstrated to her that her family's religious beliefs, as well as the Constitution, can be routinely ingored.**

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 21, 2009.



**Thomas K. Riddering
2203 Carver Ave.
St. Paul MN, 55119**

I, Susan Patricia Robinson, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California.

I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation and American Atheists.

I consider myself an atheist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1993, 1997, 2001 and 2005 on television at my home.

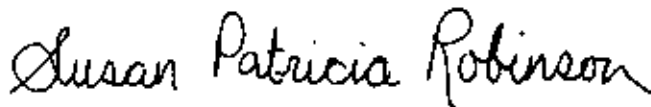
I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home.

As I watched this inauguration, I was dismayed and angered when the Justice administering the oath to Barack Obama added "so help you God?" to the oath of office because our Constitution disallows any religious requirements for any government office. I was sickened by the prayer given by the pastor Warren. I felt like Christians have infiltrated my government and I fear they could at any time choose to ignore other parts of the Constitution that don't suit their religious beliefs, to the detriment of me and all other non-Christian and non-believing American citizens.

Being 50 years old, I expect to witness at least five future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 14, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Patricia Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Susan Patricia Robinson
1500 Prairie Dog Drive
Modesto CA 95355**

I, Ted Rodosovich, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California.

I am a member of The Military Freedom From Religion Foundation, The Military Association of Atheists and Freethinkers, American Atheists, and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. I also help to support other secular organizations such as The Secular Coalition For America.

I consider myself an atheist.

I have watched U. S. presidential inaugurations since the early 1950's. As a cadet at West Point (1960-62), I marched in the bitter cold in President John F. Kennedy's.

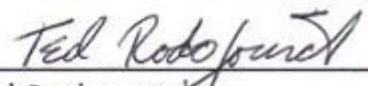
I watched several replays on TV and the i-net of our new President Obama's oath taking administered by U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Roberts.

As a 66 year old retiree I continued to be appalled by the vulgar prostituting of many government representatives to religious nonsense and to their totally evading the spirit and the mandate of the First Amendment. I was ashamed and embarrassed for my country when Justice Roberts ASKED (no less!) the new president if he took the oath, "So help you God?"

I have hopes that I will witness many more future inaugurations during my lifetime. But, it greatly saddens me to observe the constant overt and pernicious efforts by some to spark a Christian religious right theocracy for our government.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 17, 2009



Ted Rodosovich

7555 Charmant Dr., #1105, San Diego, CA 92122-5006
858-967-5632 teddyrodo@hotmail.com (preferred M. O. contact)

I, Scott Romanowski, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Massachusetts
2. I am a member of the American Atheists, Freedom From Religion Foundation.
3. I consider myself an atheist.
4. I have watched the portions of the inaugurations of 1989, 1993 and 1997 on my television at home.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama partially on television at my place of employment, and later on the Internet.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I was astonished that Chief Justice Roberts did not congratulate President Obama as soon as the President finished the oath ("...defend the Constitution of the United States"), but the Chief Justice required the President to repeat "so help me god" first. It seemed that the Chief Justice required the President to take a religious test, in clear violation of Article Six of the Constitution of the United States. I was upset with the Chief Justice at the clear contradiction of his violating the Constitution immediately after asking President Obama to swear that the President will "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution".
7. Being forty-five (45) years old, I expect to witness nine (9) future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 20, 2009.



Scott Romanowski
12 Stonehedge Circle
Billerica, Massachusetts

I, David Rose, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York.

I am a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, and a donator to the Freedom from Religion Foundation.

I consider myself an atheist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 2001 and 2005 on television at my home and watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my place of work, a Public High School in New York City.

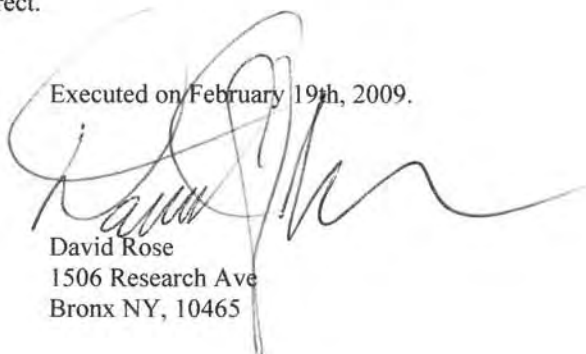
As I watched this inauguration, I was amazed at the professionalism, and filled with the awe of the moment. I knew I was watching an historic occasion unfold before me. However, I could not help but feel that in some way, I and others like me - atheists - were not truly a part of this event. The invocation delivered by Rick Warren, the use of the phrase "so help me god" by Justice Roberts at the end of the inauguration, the heavy hand that God seemed to play on the events this day left me feeling cold and outcast. This country, I felt, is for Christian - Americans. To declare oneself an atheist in a religious atmosphere that is promoted by the highest officials in our government leads to all sorts of slight discriminations. Even in the inauguration religion is peeking its head into what is supposed to be a secular ceremony.

Being 30 years old, I expect to witness 15 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

Lastly, I would note that I witnessed the inauguration in the auditorium of a public high school. The staff of the school, myself included, felt that this occasion was of such importance that we would air the event for our student body. Over 2,000 students ranging in ages from 14- 18 witnessed the event under our watch. I know of several of students in the school who express the same views about religion as I do, and I could only imagine what they must be feeling watching not only our distant and looming government endorsing religion, but also their closest teachers and administrators whom they know best. These young minds are currently learning what it means to be an American, and the overt religious content of the inauguration makes a mockery of the supposed separation between church and state.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 19th, 2009.



David Rose
1506 Research Ave
Bronx NY, 10465

I, Neal Rosenthal, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California.
2. I am a member of the American Humanist Association, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, and the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara.
3. I consider myself an Atheist.
4. I have watched the inaugurations of 1993, 2001, and 2005 on television at my home.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at a friend's home, and again later on the Internet.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I was struck, as I always am, by the overt religious words spoken by Chief Justice John Roberts that were used to administer the oath for the highest office in the country. Further, as a law-abiding and respectful citizen of the United States, I was offended to hear the invocation of prayer recited by a member of the clergy during the swearing-in ceremony.
7. Being 48 years old, I expect to witness at least seven future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 21, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neal Rosenthal', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Neal Rosenthal
4017-B Otono Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

I, Polly Rothstein, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York.

I am a member of Freedom from Religion Foundation, American Atheists, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and American Humanist Organization.

I describe myself variously as an atheist, secular humanist, or nonbeliever.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television in my home, with several friends.

As I watched this inauguration, I wept tears of joy. I did not react negatively to the oath of office sworn on a bible, as that was President Obama's personal decision. I did react negatively to "so help me god" and the members of the clergy offering religious prayers, which I feel are improper in our secular society

Being 72 years old, I hope to witness at least two future inaugurations during my lifetime.

My only grandchild was five months old at the time of the inauguration, and her sibling is to be born in July. I will feel unhappy if they see the president swear to god.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 20, 2009.



Polly Rothstein
140 Lincoln Ave.
Purchase, NY 10577
914 253-9384

I, Chris Saia, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York City.

I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation and American Humanist Association.

I consider myself a humanist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1989, 1993, 2001 and 2005 on television at my home.

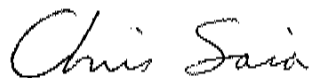
I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on television, as well.

As I watched this inauguration, I was proud to see a black American being sworn in as President. I was also dismayed to hear the usual references to god in a state function, which our constitution says should be separate.

Being 57 years old, I expect to witness 8-10 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 13, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Saia".

Chris Saia

I, _____ declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Massachusetts.
 2. I am a member of Atheist Nexus.
 3. I consider myself an Atheist-Humanist
 4. I have watched the latest inauguration, and both Bush Jr. inaugurations.
 5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my school
 6. As I watched this inauguration, I felt very disturbed, in that a country that is supposed to voice the opinions of the people, that the new leader of our country would recognize only one religion in his oath.
 7. Being 14 years old (DOB – _____), I expect to witness 19 future inaugurations during my lifetime.
 8. I am under 18, and I believe that while I am confident enough in my beliefs (or lack thereof), other children around my age may witness the leader of their nation taking Christian vows and allow that to alter their own beliefs.
- I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 23, 2009.

I, Mary Sanden, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Minnesota.

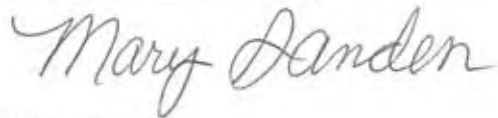
I am a member of the Southern Poverty Law Center.
I consider myself an atheist.

I have never watched an inauguration. The 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama was one I wanted to view on television but did not want to see the oath, which I deem unnecessary.

Being 48 years old, I expect to witness 8 future inaugurations during my lifetime. It is my children and grandchildren I am most concerned for with the intrusion of religion into politics in the form of an oath to a god. My two children are adults and were taught to think for themselves. We did not send them to religious instruction but taught them the difference between right and wrong. Our grandchildren, ages 9, 3, and 9 months, will hopefully see the day when an oath to a god they do not believe in will be removed. I hope to live long enough too.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 18, 2009.



Mary Sanden
1214 Cedar Street
Alexandria, MN 56308

I, _____ declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Minnesota. I am also a member of the American Humanist Association and Central Minnesota Friends Free of Theism. I consider myself an atheist.

I have watched the U.S. Presidential inaugurations of 2001 and 2005 and listened to the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on public radio. Much like the previous inaugurations, as I listened to the 2009 inauguration I was discriminated against as a citizen of this country. Specifically, when Chief Justice Roberts unduly prompted recitation of the words "so help me God," when executing the Presidential oath of office. In addition, the incorporation of religious prayers during these ceremonies further segregates me as a secular American and violates the First Amendment of the Constitution.

My rights are further infringed upon as my nine year old daughter, _____ is subjugated to U.S. Government endorsement of monotheism. She was isolated by these religious intrusions during the inauguration when merely trying to learn about national government and celebrate with her classmates. She viewed the 2009 inauguration from public school and reported feeling "sad" about the inclusion of God during the oath of office.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 23, 2009.

I, David Schaich, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Massachusetts.
2. I consider myself an atheist. I have considered myself an atheist since 1999.
3. I have not watched a presidential inauguration since that of 1997, which I watched on television at my home. I did not watch the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama.
4. I have deliberately avoided watching recent presidential inaugurations in large part due to the religious components of the events, including the explicitly monotheistic prayers and the incorporation of the phrase "so help me God" into the oath of office. I am alienated by such religious elements and do not feel that the inauguration ceremonies allow a place for atheists such as myself.
5. Being 25 years old, I expect to live through a dozen future inaugurations.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 20 February 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Schaich", written in a cursive style.

David Schaich
256 Brookline St., Apt. 1
Cambridge, MA 02139

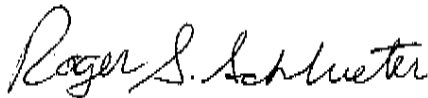
February 20, 2009

I, Roger S. Schlueter, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California.
2. I am a member of the Humanist Society of Santa Barbara and am currently President.
3. I consider myself to be an atheist.
4. I have watched every inauguration since the first President Clinton ceremony in 1989 on television at my home.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I was appalled and angered by the opening and closing prayers by Christian clergy. In particular, when Rick Warren prayed "in the name of Jesus Christ" I felt excluded and not a fully recognized citizen.
7. Being 66 years old, I expect to witness four future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 20th, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger S. Schlueter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Roger S. Schlueter
1430 Pacific Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

I, _____ declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States, resident of the State of Colorado,
and member of the Freedom from Religion Foundation. I am a freethinker and atheist v

I was born on a military base in 1954 in Japan because my father was in the military (he later helped design and build the NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Complex). While preparing to join the "family business" in October of 1972 through enlistment, I almost simultaneously received the right to drink, the right to vote, my first draft card and documents stating that I had to become a naturalized citizen or choose Japanese citizenship. Not wanting to "rock the boat," (there was that draft card and all), I chose to become a naturalized citizen of the United States, passing the naturalization test (which focused upon the United States Constitution), and taking my Oath of Citizenship (which I remember as being very similar to the oath I planned to take to become a soldier). If I remember correctly, the naturalization test's first of many questions requested that I write the complete First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. I have watched with great respect and pride on television virtually every presidential inauguration for as long as I can remember - probably since as early as 1960.

In this context, I was disgusted, infuriated and stunned when the Honorable John Roberts, Jr., Chief Justice of the United States, either through gross incompetence or with malice of forethought, incorrectly recited the Oath of Office during the January 20, 2009 Inauguration of the President of the United States.

That Tuesday, I was putting the January 22, 2009 _____ advertorial
"to bed." That week I had sent not one, but two potential columns to the Colorado Springs *Independent*. On Monday, I had mistakenly confabulated the upcoming inauguration with President's Day with the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, submitting not the Martin Luther King article I had planned, but an article about James Madison that included an interesting quotation about inaugurations. By Monday afternoon, I had recognized my mistake, and submitted a second column originally planned for the publication date closest to Martin Luther King Day, and had notified the *Independent* of my error.

As I watched the January 20, 2009 inauguration over my broadband Internet link, Pastor Rick Warren prayed on, and on, and on, and on.... Until finally I decided that it would be best to run my original submission about James Madison, in large part because it included this quotation from Stockwell Day, "It would be unthinkable in Canadian public life today for the public inauguration of our supreme political figures be accompanied by prayer." Then, as if designed to maximize my disgust during this most historic inauguration, the Honorable John Roberts, Jr., incorrectly "recited" (mangled) the Oath of Office (inexplicably including inappropriate religious references) - as the President of the United States appeared to do his best to attempt to recite the oath correctly.

I felt as if I was about to vomit.

I would gladly lay my life down, today, right here, right now, for the ideals of Human Autonomy, Human Freedom, Human Rights, Civil Rights and the Pursuit of Happiness founded in the United States Constitution. Yet, probably one of the most handsomely paid and thoroughly well cared for people on earth, officially charged with protecting and defending the United States Constitution "from all enemies foreign and domestic," failed to correctly recite the Oath of Office the to President of the United States of America during the January 2009 inauguration.

After watching the seemingly endless, openly Christian prayer of Rick Warren followed by the stunningly unconstitutional behavior of Chief Justice Roberts, I instructed the _____ to print the article about James Madison that included the quotation from Stockwell Day. Although he would probably have been appalled by this naked religious spectacle, my 13-year-old son, _____ (a minor) was not allowed to watch the inauguration at school. At age 54, I do not expect to witness many more inaugurations. I hope I never see anything as grossly unconstitutional and apparently corrupt as I experienced on January 20, 2009. There is a good chance my son will witness many more future inaugurations than I will, and I hope he will never have to endure such gross and egregious violations of Amendments One and Five of the United States Constitution.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on February 18, 2009.

I, Paul Sellnow, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Illinois.

I am a member of the American Humanist Association, the Freedom From Religion Foundation, the Council for Secular Humanism, and the DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church of Naperville, Illinois.

I consider myself a humanist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1993, 1997, 2001, and 2005 on television at my home.

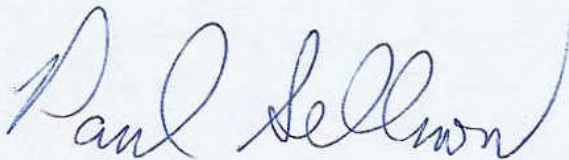
I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television in a classroom in Medill Elementary School in Chicago, Illinois, where I participate in a volunteer reading program for underprivileged children.

As I watched this inauguration, I felt extremely uncomfortable listening to Rick Warren's comments about his supernatural beliefs which I, as a patriotic American, do not share. I was troubled by the inclusion of the "so help me God" language in the oath of office. I expect my elected officials to represent citizens of all beliefs, not just those which may be most popular at the moment. And I expect those officials to use their own wisdom and judgment when carrying out their responsibilities, rather than appealing to supernatural assistance.

Being 53 years old, I expect to witness five to ten future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 16, 2009.



Paul Sellnow
701 S. Charles Avenue
Naperville, IL 60540

I, _____, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Pennsylvania.

I am a member of Pennsylvania Nonbelievers and American Atheists.

I consider myself a secularist, an atheist, a naturalist, and a Constitutionalist.

I have witnessed several presidential inaugurations on television at my home.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on the Internet.

As I watched this inauguration, the oath and monotheistic prayers made me feel left out of this very important process, a process in which, as a U.S. citizen, I should feel included.

Being 43 years old, I expect to witness as many as five future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I also have minor children who saw the inauguration. The "so help me God" and clergy-led prayer could adversely affect them and undermine my teachings about my worldview.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 15, 2009.

I, William C. Sierichs, Jr., declare as follows:

I am a lifelong citizen of the United States and a resident of the state of Louisiana.

I am a secular humanist, and can be called an atheist or agnostic depending upon what definitions are used.

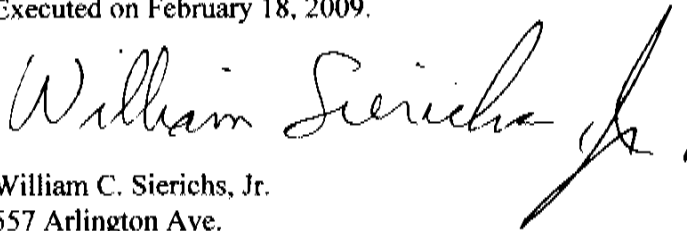
I am a member of the New Orleans Secular Humanist Association, the Freedom from Religion Foundation, the Council for Secular Humanism, the American Humanist Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Religious Liberty, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and Atheists for Human Rights. I have previously been a member of other freethought and humanist groups. I have given lectures about religion and history to several groups, including to an Atheist Alliance International convention. I have written more than a hundred articles on freethought, secularist and humanist subjects for the publications of various groups. I have been a reporter, editor and occasional columnist on newspapers in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas since 1974 and have won awards in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas for news reporting, investigative journalism and column writing, some of the last of which were about freethought and secularist subjects.

I have watched only a few inaugurations over the decades — the last was in 1992, as best as I can recall — at times because of scheduling conflicts, but in recent years, because I refuse to watch as I am increasingly angry about what I consider to be the treasonous insertion of religion into a national, legally-secular ceremony. We have a secular Constitution, a secular oath of office and a strict prohibition on any establishment of religion, which are maliciously violated.

I did not watch President Obama's inauguration specifically because of its treasonous religious component. Inviting two witchdoctors to give constitutionally-prohibited religious incantations would have had me screaming at the TV if I had been watching. I must add that I do my best to avoid any government meeting or event if I think it will include some religious component for this same reason. I will not watch any inauguration if it has a religious component.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 18, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William C. Sierichs, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

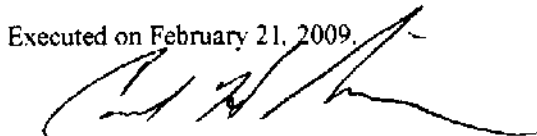
William C. Sierichs, Jr.
557 Arlington Ave.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

I, Carl H. Silverman, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
2. I am a member of Freedom From Religion Foundation and a member and director of Pennsylvania Nonbelievers, Inc.
3. I consider myself a humanistic atheist.
4. I have watched inaugurations at home on television beginning in 1961, and have seen most, if not all, inaugurations since then, including, but not limited to, 1969, 1981, 1993, and 2001.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama at home live on television and later on the internet.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I was infuriated that the chief jurist of the land, John Roberts, chose to offend the Constitution, as written, by ad-libbing the presidential oath of office and then appending it with the religious test of "So help you, God?" I would have felt similarly if he had added the more frequently used statement "so help me, God." This conveys to all present, especially impressionable young children, that a belief or dependence upon a supernatural being is a mandatory qualification to serve as Chief Executive. I do not object to a President appending his or her own response with a heart-felt sentiment or promise, indicating that he or she takes the burdens of the Presidency seriously. But the Chief Justice, in administering the oath, is performing an official duty on behalf of *all* Americans, including humanistic atheists like myself who respect the Constitution as written and properly amended. The Chief Justice, above all others, owes his employer, the American People, the duty to "stick to the script," and not behave like an "activist judge". Additionally, the invocation and benediction were offered from an exclusively Christian standpoint. The organizers, with full cooperation of many other governmental and quasi-governmental agencies, displayed a preference for Christianity over all other religions, and for religion over irreligion. No attempt was made to present a balanced set of religious worldviews, much less include a humanistic atheist perspective. The framers of the Constitution avoided any religious demands or persuasion, not even a reference to a god or "Nature's god," and there is no reason to conclude that their omission of such verbiage was anything less than intentional. I feel a tangible anger at my government and the political majority, an anger that is sometimes noticed by friends and family, due to the way both federal and state governments often ignore their Constitutions for political expediency, as exemplified by Chief Justice Roberts, as well as the attempts to marginalize and limit the political aspirations of the millions of law-abiding American citizens who do not ascribe to the majority's belief in a supreme supernatural being, such as the God of the Judeo-Christian bibles.
7. Later in the week, I heard an audio playback of the private re-administration of the oath to Barack Obama by Chief Justice Roberts, and was dismayed, but not surprised at that point, to hear the chief jurist of the land once again religiously corrupt the secular oath of office that appears within the four corners of the Constitution, as Article 2, Section 1.
8. Being 53 years old, depending on health, I expect to witness at least 3 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 21, 2009.



Carl H. Silverman
368 Beverly Rd.
Camp Hill, PA 17011

I, Sarah A. Silverman, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I am and have been a volunteer counselor at Camp Quest Ohio, a summer camp for the children of atheists, agnostics, secular humanists, and freethinkers. I was a camper for three years, and this will be my fourth year as a counselor.

I consider myself an atheist, a secularist, and a humanist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 2001, 2005, and 2009. In addition to seeing all three online, I also was able to watch Barack Obama's 2008 inauguration live on television in the University of Pittsburgh's Student Union building.

As I watched this inauguration, I was once again disappointed and offended. This was the first presidential election I was able to vote in, and one of the most historic experiences of my lifetime. As Roberts stated the words, "So help you God?" in the Presidential oath, I felt as though I was being alienated from my country and my president. No matter the political party, prayers and religious mantras said by government officials result in a feeling of separation from my country and an exclusion that is not only unjust but also unacceptable.

As a young woman and a student majoring in Developmental Psychology and Early Childhood Education, it concerns me that young children will be coerced into believing that the Gods and religions included in the oaths and prayers of the president are somehow better or more correct than others, or that they will feel the same sense of exclusion that I have felt. It scares me to think that children are being conditioned to ignore and/or accept these clergy-led prayers and as a result, grow up feeling as though their president and Supreme Court Justices are only representative of children who believe in God.

Being 20 years old, I expect to witness 15 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 15, 2009.



Sarah A. Silverman
241 McKee Pl., Apt. 8
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

I, Charlie C. Sitzes, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Indiana. I am a member of Freedom From Religion Foundation.

I consider myself a non-believer in religion.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1961, 1969, 1981, 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009 on television at my home.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home.

I felt a sense of dismay, embarrassment and disagreement when Rick Warren, talking to his imaginary god said, "*And we know today that Dr. King and a great cloud of witnesses are shouting in heaven.*" In fact some 48 million citizens of this country would join me in disagreement. We believe Dr. King and "*a great cloud of witnesses*" are, in fact, dead.

I am outraged that prayer is condoned at a political event. My rights as a private citizen should not be entwined with the religious beliefs of those I consider to be delusional.

Warren's delusion was made worse when he prayed, "*you are loving to everyone you have made*". It took three minutes for Warren to utter his prayer. In that same three minutes, 33 children on our planet died of malnutrition, and four died from malaria. 48 people on the planet died of cancer within the 3 minutes that this fundamentalist preacher was thanking his loving god. If, at a public political ceremony, a preacher declares that his god is "*loving to everyone*", then he owes 48 million of us in the U.S. who do not share his belief in god, an explanation of how his all knowing benevolent god can allow millions, more than half of them children, to suffer agonizing deaths each year from cancer, malaria, malnutrition and other diseases and just how this demonstrates that his god is "*loving to everyone.*"

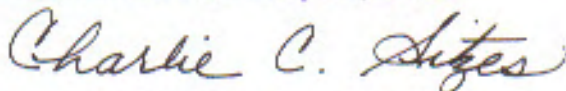
Article 2 section 1 of our constitution makes no mention of a god. When Chief Justice Roberts asked, "So help you God?", he stepped over the boundary between church and state. The Presidential Oath in Section 1, Article two consists of 37 words: *I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the*

***United States.*" It does not contain, "So help me God." Despite Rick Warren's prayerful pleading and Justice Roberts rendering of his own version of the constitution, there is no help on the way from a god. We mortals must solve our own problems. If prayers were answered there would be no disease, crime or natural disasters.**

One hundred years from now, assuming we have not managed to wipe ourselves off the face of the earth, mankind will look back with amazement at the things we believed, just as we now look back at the Spanish Inquisition and the Salem witch trials. Justice Roberts can help by not allowing the camel to get his head under the tent of the First Amendment.

Being 73 years old, I expect to witness two future inaugurations during my lifetime.

**I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
Executed on February 14, 2009.**



Charlie C. Sitzes 4250 E. Cardigan Ct. Bloomington, IN 47401-8199

I, Debra Allen Skomer, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California.
2. I am a member of the Freedom from Religion Foundation, the American Humanist Association, the Humanist Association of San Diego, the Humanist Fellowship of San Diego, the Americans United for Separation of Church and State, the Secular Coalition for America, the American Atheists, the Atheist Coalition of San Diego, and Congregation Beth Israel in San Diego.
3. I consider myself a Humanist, an Atheist, and a secular Jew.
4. I have watched the inaugurations of 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, and 2009 on television at my home.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home, later on news programs, then again, multiple times, while transferring saved TV program recordings to DVDs.
6. As I watched this inauguration I felt offended and angered by the infusion of religion into the proceedings. This is a civic event and an oath for public office. It is definitely not a religious event, nor is the President swearing a religious oath. The swearing in was preceded by the invocation by Rick Warren. There was no misunderstanding that Reverend Warren was speaking as a Christian. He invoked the name of Jesus many times and in several languages so that the world would not fail to hear his prayer to Jesus, his personal savior. But one prayer wasn't enough, so here comes another Christian, Reverend Lowery, for the benediction. These religious speeches not only excluded me, but all non-believers, and all non-Christians. If you question whether or not these speeches were "religious", you had only to observe the raised hands and bowed heads of believers.

Judge Roberts started well, and despite a little bumbling of the words, was able to deliver the oath prescribed by the Constitution of the United States. But, he went too far. He added these words that are not in the Constitution: "So help you God?" Again, I was angered that the President of the United States of America was being asked by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (who has his own sworn duty to the Constitution) to swear to a deity. Not only is it inappropriate, but it begs the question, which God? Who's God?

7. Being 52 years old, I expect to witness 10 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 20, 2009.



Debra Allen Skomer
700 Front Street #2701
San Diego, CA 92101

I, Gail S. Smith, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Washington.

I am a member of Juan de Fuca Freethinkers and the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

I consider myself a freethinking human.

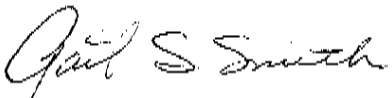
I have watched several presidential inaugurations over the years, including John F. Kennedy's and, from history archives, recorded inaugurations of P. D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman.

I have chosen not to watch any further inaugurations since, including the Barack Obama 2009 inauguration, because of the intrusion into the ceremonies by clergy, prayers, oath and all references stated or implied by the presence of religion in a political arena.

Being 63 years old, I expect to have the ability to witness 4 or 5 more inaugurations.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 18, 2009.



Gail S. Smith
481 Carriage Drive
Sequim, WA 98382

February 22, 2009

I, Mike Smith, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Colorado.
2. I am a member of Freedom From Religion Foundation, Secular Coalition for America, Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, American Humanist Association, Denver Atheists, Denver Atheists and Freethinkers, and Humanists of Colorado.
3. I consider myself an atheist and a humanist.
4. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television in my home on January 20, 2009.
5. As I watched this inauguration, I was dismayed to see and hear invocations to and endorsements of a deity in which I do not believe. I was made to feel like a political outsider, because the government was propagating dogma to which I do not subscribe.
6. Being 38 years old, I expect to witness 13 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 21, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Smith", written in a cursive style.

Mike Smith
3700 Quebec Street #100-188
Denver, CO 80207

I, Nancy S. Smith, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York. I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation. I consider myself a spiritual person and a humanist.

I do not recall watching earlier inaugurations (except at a later date, via the Internet); but I did watch (also via the Internet, but shortly after it occurred) the 2009 inauguration of President Obama-- and I have since reviewed his taking (before Supreme Court Justice Roberts) of the Inaugural Oath.

I did not view President Obama's inauguration, as it occurred; because I was, in fact, hosting a local Inaugural party that day. And although my feelings, upon a recent review of this event, are not notably strong - one way or another (President Obama appeared comfortable and at ease...) - my concerns about the conclusion (as a generalist ending) of the Inaugural Oath [a mandated dictate to add "so help me God" (?)] remain.

Being 50 years old, I expect to witness 3 to 4 more inaugurations during my lifetime. My children (five / representing a variety of secular and/or religious beliefs) and grandchildren [ten thus far, ranging from infancy to their early teens; all of them having been exposed to a variety of secular beliefs and/or religious teachings] will witness and be affected (will future Inaugural Oaths be administered in a secular manner?) by many more.

I ask that the court make sure that Inaugural Oaths of the future be just and equitable, representing a true multi-faith (including non-believers, Atheists, Agnostics, Secularists, Christians, Catholics, Muslims, etc.) Democracy - where each new president's unique style and character (what hopefully got them elected) is represented without the need for any type of spiritual or religious testimonial.

I have signed on this case because I believe a one-faith dictatorial Theocracy would destroy the very foundation and future of our great country - and because I would like to see a pragmatic application of "Separation of Church and State" - an honoring of the "U.S. Constitution" - at all levels of government.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 17, 2009.

Nancy Sue Smith 2/17/09

Nancy Sue Smith, 16 Summer Street, Kingston, NY, 12401

I, Steven L. Solomon, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Missouri.

I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, the American Humanist Association, the Atheist Alliance International, the Brights, Americans United for Separation of Church and State and am a contributor to the Secular Coalition of America.

I consider myself an Atheist and a Humanist.

I have watched portions of all inaugurations from 1981 through 2005 on television either from my home or at school.

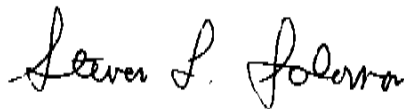
I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama in its entirety on my digital video recorder at home.

I have never understood why prayers have become part of the inaugural celebration of our secular nation and was particularly dismayed by the choice of Reverend Rick Warren to lead this year's inaugural invocation. Reverend Warren is a divisive individual who has personally insulted my lack of belief in God, deeming me unworthy to run for the presidency. As I watched his invocation, I felt a growing sense of sadness, anger, and isolation. God was repeatedly used as the source of everything from creation to morality. The name of Jesus and the God of the Old Testament was invoked. Why was my secular government promoting and supporting one set of religious beliefs? What of nonbelievers? Buddhists? Wiccans? I was an outsider in my own country. My discomfiture continued when Chief Justice Roberts chose to insert the phrase "so help me God" at the end of the presidential oath. These words are not part of the constitution and convey once again to me that my secular government is endorsing belief over disbelief, excluding a large number of its citizens. There is no reason for this. The closing benediction by Reverend Joseph Lowery also reinforced the idea that purpose and morality arise from God alone. I am a moral person with a purpose derived from Humanism. I felt as though I had been disenfranchised and dismissed from America.

Being 49 years old, I expect to witness 8-10 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February the Fourteenth, 2009.



Steven L. Solomon
17609 Ailanthus Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63005

I, John B. Stange, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Washington.

I am a member of Juan de Fuca Freethinkers and the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

I consider myself an agnostic/humanist.

I have watched several presidential inaugurations over the years, including the Barack Obama 2009 inauguration, and have been angered and upset each time by the intrusion of religion into the political ceremony by clergy, prayer, the oath as conducted, and all references stated or implied by the presence of religion.

Being 65 years old, I expect to have the ability to witness 5 or 6 more inaugurations.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 18, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Stange". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John B. Stange
481 Carriage Drive
Sequim, WA 98382

I, M. Lora Stauffer, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I am the Founder of ATHEIST STATION, Gallitzin, Pennsylvania. This group of atheists and agnostics is affiliated with American Atheists and the Freedom from Religion Foundation. For approximately 5 years, I served as State Director for American Atheists, Inc. I have been an atheist for 40 of my 60 years.

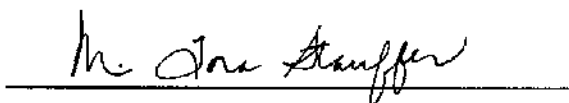
While I was in junior high school, I was enthralled by the election and subsequent inauguration of John F. Kennedy. Over the years, my interest in the ceremony waned with the caliber of men elected to this office. Finally, with the election of Barack Obama, I felt a return of enthusiasm for our democratic system and him –our first black president, a man of tremendous dignity and intellect who delivered hope to a jaded, skeptical electorate.

On January 20, 2009, I put my business on hold to watch the entire inaugural ceremony on the seldom-used office television set. I sat enraptured, awaiting the moment of oath taking. This is of special interest to me as a Notary Public, since I am occasionally asked to administer oaths and in the history of our country, one Presidential oath was administered by a Notary Public.

I had heard that President-Elect Obama would use the Lincoln bible. Considering the connection between the first black president and the President who was responsible for freeing our black people a century and a half earlier, I found this symbolism acceptable. However, the administration of the oath by Justice Roberts was so poorly executed that it seemed to me that this fumbling and butchering of written words could only have been deliberate. If his intent was to make Mr. Obama look foolish, it certainly backfired. The worst part of the oath administration was what happened after the designated words were repeated! Justice Roberts then proceeded to add, in an inquiring (and challenging) tone of voice: "So help you God?" Thinking about it afterward, I wondered if I had imagined the whole thing. Opening my Internet page later in the day, I came upon a link inviting me to watch the oath. I played it several times, becoming more and more upset with each viewing.

There is no such phrase in the United States Constitution. Where is the oversight needed to correct a situation such as this flagrant violation? I could conceivably view another eight inaugurations, and I hope never to see this happen again. Because of the trials and suffering of so many in those dark colonial days, a Constitution was drafted that would include all citizens of our country – even those of us who espouse no religion. Instead, what we now have is a growing theocracy, in which prayers and religious oaths are forced on all at what should be religiously-neutral public ceremonies.

I declare under penalty of perjury the foregoing is true and correct and will supply an affidavit if necessary. Executed on February 15, 2009 at Altoona, Pennsylvania.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M. Lora Stauffer", is written over a horizontal line.

M. Lora Stauffer
1717 N 10th Avenue
Altoona PA 16601

I, Ronald P. Stauffer, declare as follows:

I am currently a member of several Atheist–Humanist organizations, namely Freedom From Religion Foundation, Pennsylvania Nonbelievers and Freethought Perspective – as well as a co-founder of ATHEIST STATION. First and foremost, I am an American citizen! Because I am an Atheist–Humanist, I put my country and its Constitution above all else – not second to some unproven god, as Chief Justice Roberts does.

I have watched probably six inaugurations in my lifetime, and more and more I find myself annoyed by the beseeching phrase “so help me God” tacked on to the end of the Presidential Oath. This year was the last straw when Justice Roberts pre-empted the President Elect with the non-required prayer. It bothered me so much that I sent an open letter to *The Washington Post* with copies to Justice Roberts, the Supreme Court, and *Newsweek* magazine, which no one bothered to publish – and I haven't heard back from Mr. Roberts or the Court.

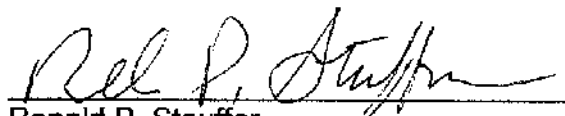
I viewed the Obama inauguration on January 20 in real time and, of course, later in news broadcast after news broadcast.

Where does the Chief Justice have any authority to change the Constitution's wording of the Presidential Oath by adding the question, “**So help you God?**”? Is not the Constitution's intent to protect all of its citizens, including at least 20 million nonbelievers? Are nonbelievers second class citizens? Roberts' utterances are deeply insulting to me as a deep-thinking individual who served to protect that Constitution as a U.S. Marine.

As long as I remain alive, I will be viewing the inauguration event hoping that this country can get over the mangling of the Oath. Those beseeching words will certainly influence children who viewed the inauguration; it cannot be otherwise!

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 16, 2009.


Ronald P. Stauffer
1717 N 10th Avenue
Altoona PA 16601

I, John Steiner declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California.

I am a member of the *Freedom From Religion Foundation, Secular Coalition of America, and the Institute for Humanist Studies.*

I consider myself an Agnostic Secular Humanist.

I have watched on television nearly all the inaugurals for the last 30 years, most certainly the last three.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on live television at my home.

As I watched this inauguration, I felt weary, angry and saddened by the religion-drenched nature of the event. I had earlier written to the Obama staff protesting particularly the selection of Rick Warren. The worst moment of the event was the very end of the oath. Justice Roberts had clearly come to the end of the oath and there was this short pause; and then Justice Roberts added: "So help you God?" It made me sad and weary to see this entirely unnecessary and unconstitutional intrusion of religion into an extremely important moment for ALL Americans – including those of us who are non believers.

Being 62 years old, I expect to witness at least seven future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 18, 2009.

John Steiner



15225 Arena CT
Manchester, CA 95459

I, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Florida,

I am a member of Miami, Secular Humanists, American Atheists, Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Humanist Association and Americans United.

I consider myself an atheist.

I have listened to or watched many presidential inaugurations over the years. I listened to the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on the radio while driving to a doctor's appointment. Being 34 years old, I expect to witness seven or more future inaugurations during my lifetime.

As I watched this inauguration, I was deeply offended by the sectarian clergy-led prayers given during the ceremony and by the alteration of the oath of office with the phrase "so help me God." I am an American citizen, but I felt like a second class citizen when one religion was put above all others during the ceremony. I found the prayer and "God" invocation to be both angering and frustrating. I felt like the ceremony showed that the government respects the religious beliefs of one group over my beliefs. Our government deeply upset me by showing a clear bias in favor of those that believe in one particular God over other gods or no god. It is hard enough to feel accepted as an ethical atheist, but I felt like the inauguration's favoritism of one religion over all others will make it even more clear that it is only OK to be a part of the favored religion in this country.

I have two young children (four and five) who I fear will feel pressured to become a Christian to fit in to society when they see inaugurations like this in the future. I want them to be free to choose whatever religious beliefs they would like without being subject to strong government sponsored social pressure indicating that it is more acceptable to be part of one religion over another. Children have enormous desires to fit in; they should have our presidential inaugurations used as an opportunity to show how all Americans are one, not how one faith is superior to others.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 16, 2009.

I, Martin M. Stone, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Georgia.

2. I am a member of the following relevant organizations:

- **The Freedom From Religion Foundation**
- **Americans United for the Separation of Church and State**
- **American Humanist Association**
- **People for the American Way**

3. I consider myself to be a rational, freethinking, non-theistic, humanist, secular citizen of the United States of America.

4. I have seen and heard many presidential inaugurations over the years (on television), specifically the inaugurations of Lyndon B. Johnson (1965), Richard M. Nixon (1969 and 1973), Gerald R. Ford (1974), James E. Carter (1977), Ronald Reagan (1981 and 1985), George H. W. Bush (1989), William J. Clinton (1993 and 1997), George W. Bush (2001 and 2005), and Barak Obama (2009).

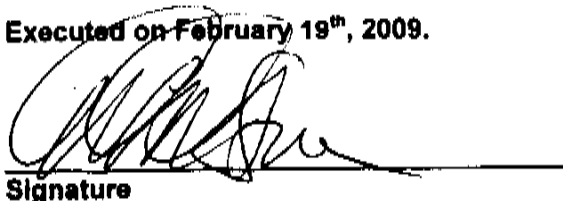
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on cable television, when I returned home from work on January 20th, 2009.

6. As I watched this inauguration, I continued to feel like a stranger in a strange land. This is, by all rights and privileges, a modern secular society – which did not include any formal participation by clergy, religious prayers or invocations, or any sectarian modifications to the prescribed oath of office until the early 20th century. Unfortunately, the very people who should know better (our elected officials – executive and legislative, and those appointed to our courts) regularly violate their oaths (to “preserve, protect and defend” the Constitution of the United States,) – and violate the rights of their fellow citizens by engaging in the willful violation of the First Amendment’s Establishment clause through the introduction of religious and sectarian invocations in what is a purely secular ceremony. If this grand experiment in self-government is to survive, these violations must STOP! Our national motto, which is in danger of being forgotten and discarded, is “E Pluribus Unum” – NOT “In God We Trust.”

7. Being 50 years old, I expect to witness at least 8 or 9 more future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 19th, 2009.



Signature

**Martin M. Stone
477 Gaillardia Way
Acworth, Georgia 30102
USA**

I, Paul Storey, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California.
2. I am a member of Atheists and Other Freethinkers, and the former president, along with being a member of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.
3. I consider myself an atheist.
4. I have seen the inaugurations of the last three or four presidents over tv, the media and the web.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on the internet and replayed on the time shift recording.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I felt alienated as an American to all the religious ceremonies which were involved in the event, the invocation, the use of the Bible, the references to God. I feel this is very exclusionary to the 14% of Americans who define themselves as non-believers. Considering blacks constitute 14% and Hispanics 15% (all figures from City University of New York poll, 2001), this constitutes a substantial portion of the citizens of this country who would be in my category and very likely share my feelings of alienation and being offended by references to God and Jesus in watching the leader of our country being sworn into office. I also feel this is a deviation from the principles from which our country was founded, specifically, the Establishment Clause in the Bill of Rights.
7. Being 57 years old, I expect to witness five future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 22 2009.



Paul Storey
6300 Maranta Ct.
Citrus Heights, CA 95621

I, Marvin Straus, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Colorado.

I am the cofounder, a board member, and a member of the Boulder Atheists and I consider myself an atheist.

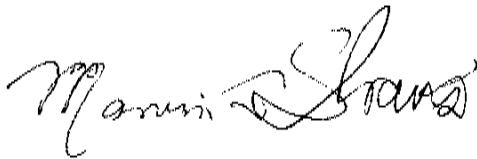
I have watched the inaugurations of 1989, 1993, and 2005 on television at my home.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on television at my home.

As I watched this inauguration, I was disappointed at the obvious religious and Christian message of the "So help me, God" oath, the clergy presence and prayers that discriminates against people such as myself who are not Christians or religious. I am especially concerned when presidents invoke the name Jesus during their swearing-in. Being 71 years old, I expect to witness 4 or 5 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

February 18, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marvin Straus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marvin Straus
2228 Holyoke Dr.
Boulder, CO 80305
303-494-4926
cocore3@q.com

I, Eric Matthew Stubbs, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Alabama.

I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Humanist Association, American Atheists, and the North Alabama Freethought Association.

I consider myself an atheist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1997, 2001, and 2005 on television at my home.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live streaming on the internet at my place of employment.

As I watched certain parts of this inauguration, in particular the oath using the words "so help me God" and the opening Christian prayers, I felt that as a non-Christian I was being willfully excluded from the event. I was offended by the prayers and found them to be inappropriate and irresponsible. Religion is divisive and was used to further divide Americans during a time when we should instead be trying to unite. A presidential inauguration should be welcoming to ALL Americans, not just some Americans or even the majority of Americans.

Being 24 years old, I expect to witness at least 14 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 14, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Matthew Stubbs".

Eric Matthew Stubbs
685 Providence Main St.
Apt. 38
Huntsville, AL 35806

I, Gregory F. Swales, declare as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Pennsylvania.

I am a member of The Freedom From Religion Foundation and The Pennsylvania Non-Believers.

I consider myself an atheist and a humanist.

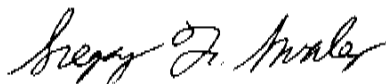
I have watched the inaugurations of 1993, 1997, 2001, and 2005 on television at home, and the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on the internet after I got home from work.

As I watched this inauguration, I was appalled by the use of the words "So help me, god," as delivered by Justice Roberts. I was equally distressed by the prayers given by the clergy, invoking Jesus and the Christian god. This is a secular country, and for the government to endorse any particular religion, or religion over non-religion, is against secular principles. To me, these acts clearly show a governmental endorsement of religious thought over non-religious thought, which I feel belittles me personally.

Being 44 years old, I hope to witness many future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 18, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory F. Swales".

Gregory F. Swales
302 South 5th Street
Clearfield, PA 16830