

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

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PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT, APPENDIX G  
REDACTED DECLARATIONS OF NEW INDIVIDUAL PLAINTIFFS  
#7 OF 8 (T-Z)

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MICHAEL NEWDOW  
*In pro per and pro hac vice*  
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SACRAMENTO, CA 95823

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[NewdowLaw@gmail.com](mailto:NewdowLaw@gmail.com)

ROBERT V. RITTER  
DC BAR #414030  
AHA – 1777 T STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20009

(202) 238-9088  
[BRitter@americanhumanist.org](mailto:BRitter@americanhumanist.org)

I, Victor Tanner, declare as follows:

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

I am a member of Minnesota Atheists and American Atheists.

I consider myself an Atheist.

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

I did not feel comfortable watching the inauguration this year because of the religious tone of the event, with the clergy led prayer and the phrase "So help me god" present. It made me feel like the leader of our nation must bow down and worship a god publicly, a religious test, in order to step into the office of President and that secular Americans are second class citizens.

Being 36 years old, I expect to witness 11 future inaugurations during my lifetime and I hope they can be secular in nature.

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

Executed on February 19, 2009.

*Victor Tanner*

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare as follows:

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

I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation. I consider myself a humanistic atheist. I watched the inaugurations of 1989 and 1993 on television at my home.

I witnessed the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama in person, in Washington, D.C. As I watched this inauguration, which I had anticipated with so much enthusiasm and patriotic fervor, I felt very left out during the religious elements – the lengthy prayers of Rev. Rick Warren and Dr. Joseph Lowery, and the oath using the Christian Bible. I have invested so much time and pinned so many hopes on this president's success, and I felt like a second-class citizen being forced to endure two very long prayers invoking a god in whom I do not believe, and watching my president being sworn in on a book that is not a sacred document to me. On a day when I had hoped to finally feel included and welcome in my nation's governance, these were very disturbing, unpleasant moments.

Being 52 years old, I expect to witness at least 10 future inaugurations during my lifetime. My 10-year-old daughter, who attended the 2009 inauguration with me, has been taught to respect believers of all religions but to listen to their arguments with healthy skepticism. She has in fact done a lot of listening, and so far finds that she cannot believe any of the arguments for various religions. She was very confused by the intonation of two prayers in her country's inaugural process, and asked me repeatedly why they had been included. Like me, she suddenly felt left out of a process that she had been so excited about being a part of. Like many children, my daughter – a bright child who is very interested in politics and has an unusually strong social conscience -- has always hoped to someday run for president; she has been planning her campaign since she was 7. After witnessing the inauguration, she asked me if it was possible for someone who does not believe in God to be elected, and given the circumstances, I was unable to give her an encouraging response. The fact that she now feels this avenue is closed to her both saddens and angers me. I realize that it is unlikely she would ever have run for president, but she has always had that dream, and now she feels it is gone. It seems to me that every American child should have the right to believe in his or her heart that someday they could be president of the United States.

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

Executed on February 18, 2009.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare as follows:

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

I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation.

I consider myself an atheist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1977, 1989, and 1993 on television.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama in person in Washington D.C.

As I watched the latest inauguration, I felt a great anticipation for what the new administration could do to restore the image of the United States as a place where one could live free and choose to follow whatever religious path the individual chooses even if that meant no path at all. I was dismayed, however, by the long prayers, the oath upon the Bible, and the insertion of the phrase "so help me God," which is nowhere to be found in the Constitution. I felt very much alone and undervalued as a non-believer.

Being 53 years old, I expect to witness at least 8 future inaugurations during my lifetime. My daughter, 10 years old, was with me in Washington D.C. to watch President Obama's inauguration. I am trying to bring her up to choose her own path as regards a creator but to listen to any arguments with a dose of skepticism and reasoning. She was very confused by the prayers and religious tone of the ceremony asked if it was possible for a person to become President who does not believe in God. All I could answer was that while the Constitution claims that there should be no religious test to hold an elective office that it would be very unlikely for a non-believer to hold that high office.

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

Executed on February 16, 2009.

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 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 on television at my home, at school with other students, and later on the Internet. As I watched this inauguration, I felt outraged, greatly offended, and saddened by the display of religious additions of prayer, especially in the oath. I felt that the president was showing special regard to those that believe in God and ignored that there are others, like me, who have no belief in God. Displays such as these are not only offensive, but they make it harder to raise my son according to my beliefs because he now associates religion with figures of importance such as Barack Obama.

Being 30 years old, I expect to witness many more future inaugurations during the rest of my life. It is my hope that I will not have to feel that the president of our great nation favors the religious individuals of this country over those that do not believe.

I have a son who watched the inauguration with my parents and later with me. When he saw prayer at the inauguration, I had to remind him that not all people believe in God and that just because an important public figure, such as Barack Obama, shows reverence to God, it is still acceptable for him to choose to not believe. It is very difficult to keep reinforcing to my son my belief that God does not exist when he is shown such displays of religiousness at government assemblies such as the inauguration, which I had tried to explain to him as being a very important event. He does recognize Barack Obama as the new president. I do feel that he understood that the event was significant but I am still deeply outraged and offended that the inauguration reinforced religion in his impressionable, young mind.

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

Executed on February 16, 2009.

A Declaration From Niko Theris:

I, Niko Theris, 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 following organizations: Atheist Alliance International, the Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Humanist Association, American Atheists and Orange County Atheists.

I consider myself a non-theistic humanist.

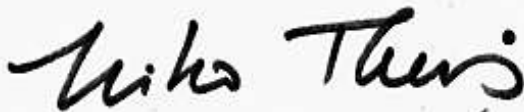
I have listened to presidential inaugurations on the radio before there was television and on television when television was available. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my Laguna Beach home.

As I watched this inauguration, I felt left out and a non-participant during Justice Roberts swearing in of President Obama with the help of God and when the subsequent sectarian prayers that were recited.

Being 81 years old, I expect to witness perhaps 4 or 5 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 19, 2009.



Niko Theris  
270 Cliff Drive Apt. 7  
Laguna Beach, CA 927651



I, John Frederick Thorlin III, declare as follows:

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

I am a member of the Freedom from Religion Foundation. I consider myself a Deist.

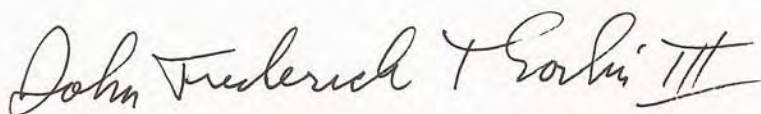
I have watched many inaugurations since attending Eisenhower's inauguration in person. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home, and later on the Internet.

As I watched this inauguration on television, I was upset by the abundance of gratuitous religious references inserted in the proceedings. Four Christian ministers spoke during the days events, President Obama made four religious references during his inaugural address and there were at least two "so help me god"s uttered, although I only saw one. That one was repeated tediously on TV over the next few days. I was intensely offended by this intrusion of the Christian religion into the administrative affairs, e.g. inaugural proceedings, of my supposedly secular country. These inclusions appear to have come about in response to the HUAC hearings of the fifties. These statements are intended to assert that the speaker is more righteous than the next person. This practice was born of a hateful proceeding which the USA should be ashamed of, instead of perpetuating and pandering to. The USA is not a theocracy, was never intended to become one, and these recitations need to be excluded so it never becomes one.

Being sixty-eight years old, I expect to witness three or four future inaugurations during my lifetime. I have seen the youngsters in my classrooms being confused by the Creationist positions being foisted upon them. To hear the top of our political structure offering tacit support for these irrational teachings contributes to the deterioration of our nation's prospects in the global arena.

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

Executed on February thirteenth, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Frederick Thorlin III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "J" and "T".

John Frederick Thorlin III

I, Sean Michael Tierney, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Maryland.
3. I consider myself a Secular Humanist, atheist and Absurdist.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I felt disappointed and alienated by the overtly religious theme.
7. Being 28 years old, I expect to witness three future inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 22nd, 2009.



Sean Michael Tierney  
3282 Ryon Ct.  
Waldorf, Maryland 20601



I, Paul J. Tjaden, declare as follows:

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

I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Military Religious Freedom Foundation, American Atheists, Orlando Atheists and Freethinkers, South Lake Atheists and Freethinkers and the South Lake Democratic Club. I am co-founder and Vice President of South Lake Atheists and Freethinkers.

I consider myself an atheist/humanist .

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

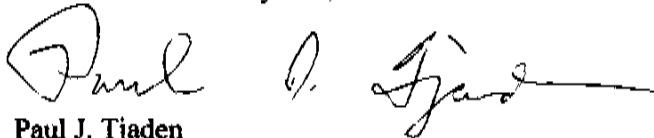
I also watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home, and reviewed it later on the Internet.

As I watched this inauguration, I was filled with pride that we had elected a man of African descent to be our President but also upset with the religiosity that was so prevalent. As a non-theist, and someone who has studied the Establishment clause of the First Amendment, I was appalled at the prayers invoking a Christian God and the fact that Justice Roberts asked of President Obama, "So help you God?" at the end of President Obama's swearing in ceremony. Had President Obama not wished to use these words, which are not ascribed in the official Oath of Office, it would have been very difficult or awkward for him to leave this out. These religious overtones to the inauguration tend to alienate me and a very large group of others who do not believe in a God or don't believe in the Christian God. I am a good and lawful citizen of our country and I should not be made to feel second class because I don't share the religious beliefs of the majority. We are being pushed aside and not included just as assuredly as our African American Brothers were many years ago. The Constitution states there is to be no religious test for any office. It seems to me that these are empty words when I see how our Chief Executive must show his allegiance to the Christian God during his Oath of Office. This must stop.

Being 59 years old, I will hopefully witness five or more future inaugurations during my lifetime, I would like to believe that the next one will not be cloaked in religion.

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

Executed on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009



Paul J. Tjaden

209 Hidden View Drive  
Groveland, FL 34736

I, Teri Lynn Tracey, declare as follows:

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

I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Secular Coalition for America and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

I consider myself a Secular Humanist.

I have watched almost all of the inaugurations, on television at home, since I began voting in 1976. I watched both inaugurations of President Reagan in 1981 and 1985 and President Clinton in 1993 and 1997. I did not wish to watch the inaugurations of President G W Bush in 2001 and 2005.

I watched part of the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama later on the Internet. I only watched him take the oath of office and then give his inaugural speech. I refused to watch the theists perform their religious rituals.

As I watched part of this inauguration, I felt very angry about the continual references to religion in what is supposed to be a civil event. I could feel my blood pressure go up and had a sick feeling in my stomach. It made me extremely sad to watch people display willful ignorance of the establishment clause of the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment and to basically spit on the words of our Founding Fathers.

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 16, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri L. Tracey". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Ms. Teri L. Tracey  
6954 N Asterion Lane  
Tucson, AZ 85741

I,                    declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of New York.
2. I am an active member of the New York City Atheists which is a non-profit, non-partisan educational association.
3. I consider myself an atheist. I do not believe in god, religion or anything super-natural.
4. I have seen clips of past inaugurations on television and on the internet.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live over the internet.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I was very disappointed and upset to hear the unnecessary and inappropriate prayers offered by Rick Warren and Joseph E. Lowery. I do not believe in Jesus and do not want to hear about praising him when celebrating the beginning of the new administration. The Constitution or Bill Of Rights should be discussed, not scripture. I also do not understand why it is still common practice for the words "so help me god" to be included when swearing in for a public position.
7. Being 31 years old, I expect to witness at least 10 future inaugurations during my lifetime.
8. My wife and I plan on having a baby in the next year. That child will be old enough to watch the next inauguration. We do not plan on raising the child with religion and would not want him/her to hear the leader of our country speaking the words "help me god," especially in a public forum. If we want our child to hear clergy offer prayers, we will go to church, not expect to hear it during the Presidential Inauguration.

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

Executed on February 19, 2009.

Thanos Trezos  
6732 Karin Place  
San Gabriel, CA 91775  
(626) 302-1101  
[trezost@yahoo.com](mailto:trezost@yahoo.com)

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February 18, 2009

Newdow vs. Roberts

I, Thanos Trezos, declare as follows:

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

I am a member of American Atheists as well as Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

I consider myself an atheist.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home. This was the first Presidential inauguration that I have watched.

As I watched this inauguration, I paid particular attention to the ending of the oath the upcoming President was prompted to recite in accordance with our Constitution. I was disgusted not by the human error that the administering judge made, but by his deliberate deviation from the Constitution's wording.

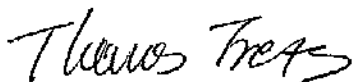
Being 52 years old, I expect to witness 4 or 5 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

I find it an oxymoron and a shame that the judge who asks the upcoming President to defend the Constitution to prompt him deviate from the ceremonial words that the founding fathers of this country bothered to write in the Constitution.

I fully respect the judge's religious beliefs and his need to seek help from extraterrestrial or non-existing powers, but I equally demand not to insult my religious rights when he conducts official business paid by my tax money.

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

Executed on February 18, 2009.



Thanos Trezos  
6732 Karin Place  
San Gabriel, CA 91775

I, George K. Tucker 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 atheist organizations Freedom From Religion Foundation and Atheists United (Los Angeles), the humanist organization Center for Inquiry, and the Constitutional watchdog organizations Military Religious Freedom Foundation, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the ACLU.

I consider myself an atheist.

I watched the inauguration of 2009 on television at home, sometime after 8 am PST. I deliberately avoided the Rick Warren prayer preceding the actual inauguration, as it was inappropriate and objectionable.

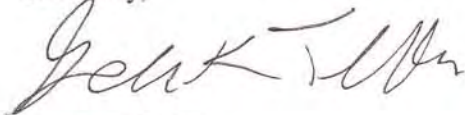
As I watched this inauguration, I was glad to see that the book used in the oath of office was not identifiable on screen as a Bible, but more concerned that the Chief Justice stated the oath incorrectly and the new President did not respond with the correct wording. The "so help me God" phrase at the end – improperly inserted by the Chief Justice – was disgusting, so I walked away at that point.

Being 64 years old, I could witness 2 or 3 future inaugurations during my lifetime before Alzheimer's.

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

Executed on February 22, 2009.

Sincerely,



George Tucker  
2106 Graham Ave.  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

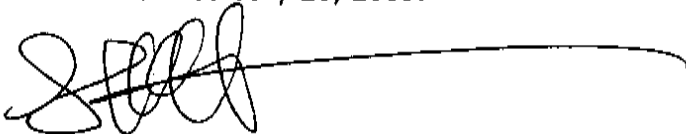


I, Scott Van Tussenbrook, declare as follows:

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.
3. I consider myself an atheist.
4. I have watched the inaugurations of Bill Clinton in 1993 and 1997, and George W. Bush in 2001. Always on television, at my home.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home, and spent a bit of time afterward re-watching it and reading the text of the President Obama's speech and swearing-in.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I couldn't help but be thrilled by the momentous occasion. I was pleased to hear President Obama mention "un-believers" in his speech - for the first time, in a long while, I felt like the anti-atheism sentiment in this country may be beginning to dissipate. I dearly hope this is the case. We are considered untrustworthy, unfit for public office, lacking in moral fiber, etc. As I watched Justice Roberts add "So help me God" to the end of the speech, I realized why this bias against non-theists persists in this country. In addition to having "in God we trust" on the money, everyone pledging (erroneously) that we are "one nation under God," the Supreme Court Justice in charge of swearing in the President of our United States, added "So help me God" to the oath -- words which do not appear in the Constitution and should not be added, illegally, by anyone, to this important oath of office. I object, also, to Pastor Rick Warren's prayer. The inclusion of chaplains offering prayers at inaugurations is a relatively new addition to that tradition, early last century. Warren's prayer was offensive in that, on top of the already excluding atheists by virtue of being a prayer at all, it was also unrelentingly Christian in its verbiage -- citing four or five names for Jesus, and in the end, Warren even managed to make the prayer he was offering, on behalf of the entire nation, apparently -- all about him, himself, and his personal relationship with Jesus. This sort of theater has no place in our state functions, especially not in something as important as the "peaceful transfer of power" taking place at the very top of our nation's government. This message of exclusion, sent out on the one day when we, all of us, should be united in one voice. "So help me God" in the oath, and Rick Warren's personal relationship with his savior are not only wildly inappropriate in this setting, I'm pretty sure they must be illegal.
7. Being 40 years old, I expect to witness 6 or 7 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 20, 2009.



Scott Van Tussenbrook  
5508 Costello Ave.  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401

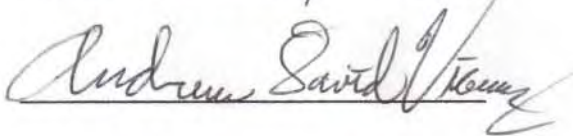
(310) 770-8730  
Email: scott@vantussenbrook.com

I, Andrew David Viceroy, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Oregon.
2. I am a member of Freedom from Religion Foundation.
3. I consider myself a secular humanist/ atheist/ agnostic.
4. I have seen several presidential inaugurations on television at my home over the years (e.g. 2001, 2005).
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on the internet (YouTube).
6. As I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama, I was offended at both Justice Roberts' perpetuation of the inclusion of an oath to God, as well as the unnecessary inclusion of religious invocations at an event that I feel must be secular in order to represent all Americans neutrally. Dr. Warren's divisive prayer affirmed that "all nations are accountable" to his particular god. This kind of talk has no place at the establishment of our nation's highest office or any governmental setting.
7. Being 40 years old, I expect to witness 10-15 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 18th, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew David Viceroy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the date line.

Andrew David Viceroy

6020 SE Brooklyn St.

Portland, OR 97206-2050

I, *Damon Payne Vix*, declare as follows:

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

I am a member of *American Atheists, Atheists United, and the Freedom From Religion Foundation,*

I consider myself a United States Citizen and an Atheist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1961, 1965, 1969, 1973, 1977, 1981, 1985, 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005 and 2009. Over the years, these have been played on television on documentaries and news stories many times.

I started to watch the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama, but as I watched this inauguration, I had to leave the room in which my coworkers watched the ceremony as I felt too insulted and offended to watch the religious oath at the end of the ceremony. I felt my personal freedom to practice my belief of not being involved in religion was violated. I further felt that my not wanting to watch the inauguration alienated me from my coworkers.

Being 40 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.



Damon Vix  
228 W. Santa Anita Ave  
Burbank, Ca 91502

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

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

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

Executed on February 15, 2009.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare as follows:

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

I am a member of the Freedom From Religion Foundation and Americans United For The Separation Of Church And State.

I was raised without religion, I am an atheist, and have been raising my children as freethinkers as well.

With my twin sons, I personally attended the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama. I was saddened both by the length and not only monotheistic but actually Christian attitude of the supposedly "inclusive" prayer. I was then further disappointed in my wonderful country's insistence that, despite it being clear in the Constitution that there be no religious test for office, our latest President was forced to place his hands on a book of fiction and ask for the help of some people's invisible friend in governing the nation in which my children are developing.

Being 47 years old, I expect to witness about 10 future inaugurations during my lifetime. My children will be 17 for the next inauguration in 2013, and it would be morally invigorating were it to be superstition-free.

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

Executed on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.



I, Don C. Ward, declare as follows:

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

I am a member of Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Humanist Association, Western North Carolina Atheists, The Institute of Humanist Studies, The American Secular Coalition, and The Brights.

I consider myself an Atheist-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 was once again taken aback by the influence of church on state.

Being 59 years old, I expect to witness a few more future inaugurations during my lifetime.

My grandson, (who is aware of my non-theistic preference) asked me how I felt about the theistic directed portions as he also was watching the proceedings. This young man will be entering college next year and is very astute as well as being "a walking question mark." I was both embarrassed and ashamed to relate to him how it seems we're very like a theocracy in some ways. He was already aware of this and our conversation continued along these lines.

I'm appalled that this nation remains inconsiderate of the non-theistic and growing secular community.

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 "Don C. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don C. Ward



I, Frank R. Wayne, declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Illinois.
2. I consider myself an atheist.
3. I watched the inauguration of William Clinton in 1997 live on television.
4. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on television after having recorded it.
5. As I watched this inauguration, I was offended to hear Justice Roberts use religious verbiage and clerics conduct religious rituals in what should have been a secular official ceremony of a nation founded without an official religious point of view.
6. Being 41 years of age, 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 20, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Wayne". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and address.

Frank Wayne  
361 N Edgewood Ave  
Wood Dale IL 60191

I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare as follows:

1. I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of Virginia.
2. I consider myself an atheist.
3. I have watched the inaugurations of 1993, 1997, 2005, and 2009 on television at my home, and I marched in the parade of the inauguration of 2001 in person in Washington, DC (as a member of a high school band that was participating).
4. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home, and later on the Internet.
5. As I watched this inauguration, I felt like I was in church. The myriad references and instances of church and God were blatant and shameless – it felt like a prolonged infomercial about God with the Shamwow guy. I've become accustomed to certain religious things in government, but the inauguration provided a constant barrage of God. I tend not to blame Obama because he says what he knows people will understand, but there is no excuse for the government that claims to be the head of the "free world" to bring church to our TV sets. The inundation not only pushes one particular religion on us, but it vilifies nonbelievers and forces us into the ranks of second-class citizens. Adding phrases like "So help you God?" to the end of an oath for office effectively prevents, at least in the minds of the public, the idea that an atheist can hold an office that requires an oath.  
I can't pretend to understand what black people dealt with before the civil rights movement (or after, for that matter), but to be told almost point-blank that this is a nation of Christians, and if you're not like us you have no business being part of our governance is wrong, it's illegal, and it's downright scary.
6. Being 25 years old, I expect to witness 14 future inaugurations during my lifetime.
7. I don't currently have children, but I recently got married and will have children by 2013. I fear for their freedom, because while they'll be taught the tenets of freedom and acceptance, they'll need to live in silence to prevent being ostracized. The unfortunate irony is that the peoples' prejudice will never allow them the chance to run for office to change things for future generations.

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

Executed on February 19, 2009.

I, *Karla Westphal*, declare as follows:

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

I am a member of *Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union*.

I consider myself agnostic.

I was invited to attend a local gathering of Obama supporters who planned to celebrate the Inauguration by watching it together on television. I chose not to attend specifically because I objected to his choice to include several prayers in the ceremony. Prior to the Inauguration, I wrote to him, to Reverend Rick Warren, and to Reverend Gene Robinson urging them to replace the formal invocations with Moments of Silence or Reflection. I did not receive a response from any of these individuals.

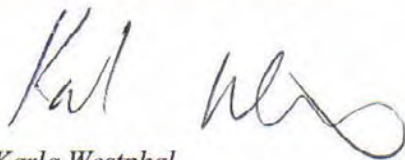
I saw part of the Inaugural parade on television but did not watch any other Inaugural events. I later heard Rev. Robinson's prayer on NPR and read a transcript of Rev. Warren's prayer on the internet. I was angry that they had been included in the Inauguration. I was angry that Rev. Robinson, in an attempt to be "inclusive" suggested by his actions that it's acceptable to marginalize non-theists by praying to some sort of "generic" god. I was angry that Rev. Warren, who ended with the explicitly Christian Lord's Prayer, suggested by his actions that it's acceptable to marginalize non-Christians.

I am also deeply disturbed about the inclusion of the phrase "so help me God" in the inaugural oath. My emotional response to this was less intense than to the prayers, but only because such violations of church/state separation are so common that I have come to expect them, without objecting to them any less.

Being 37 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 19, 2009.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Karla Westphal', written in black ink.

*Karla Westphal*  
27754 Emerald  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691



I, Joseph Daniel Weyers, 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 Americans United for the Separation of Church and State; the American Civil Liberties Union and Free-thought Ventura County.
3. I consider myself an atheist and have for my entire adult life.
4. I have watched the inaugurations of 1977, 1981, 1985, 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001 and 2005 on television at my home.
5. I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama live on television at my home, and later on the Internet.
6. As I watched this inauguration, I was struck by the incongruity of the insertion of specific religious traditions and faith rituals into what is a ceremony meant to exemplify the peaceful secular transition of power from one executive to the next. The incongruity was made notable in that the entire ceremony was begun and ended by pleas and prayers by leaders of a religion not invested with any sort of due process power by the state and to the exclusion of all other viewpoints. Most central to my objection to the events that transpired was that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; who is charged more so than any other on stage that day with assuring that my rights as a member of a protected class minority; was a key player in referencing, and requiring the new president to swear an oath to or represent some ultimate reward to ("So help me, God") a deity that does not represent my faith traditions or beliefs, as the central act of this very secular event. It gave me great pause to consider, in this light, what obstructions to the free practice, or non-practice, of religion would be set in my path and that of my fellow citizens who do not follow the majority view; should we come before the President or Supreme Court in an adversarial engagement with another citizen whose views more closely match those expressed during the inaugural ceremony by the President and Chief Justice or invited clergy. I honestly believe, based on these events; that it chills my expectation of fair and due process consideration.
7. Being 47 years old, I expect to witness 7-8 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 21, 2009.



*Joseph D. Weyers*  
6209 Cardinal Street  
Ventura, CA 93003



I, Dustin Wittmann, declare as follows:

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

I am yet to set aside the capital to join a major atheist organization but support in spirit the work of the Atheist Community of Austin (TX), the Freedom from Religion Foundation, and other atheist/humanist organizations.

I consider myself an atheist.

I have witnessed every televised inauguration since 1993 and have seen or absorbed coverage in the news media most of the inaugurations of the last 50 years.

I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on the television set at work and followed coverage of the entire event on National Public Radio.

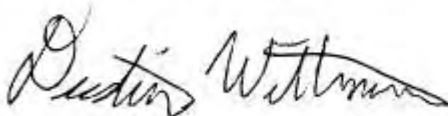
As I watched this inauguration, I was saddened and disturbed by the Western monotheistic bias. The prayers to and other allusions toward a singular God by Messrs. Warren, Roberts, and Lowery are clearly violations of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

For the American people, inaugurations are watershed events that symbolize how we as a society turn the page from one era of history to the next. The words said are, in effect, the words of the US Government itself. With the entirety of the three branches of government in attendance, I would find any argument otherwise unconvincing. I think, therefore, that the least we could ask of our elected representatives is that the message of inaugurations should be tailored to honor the sensibilities of *all* faiths and creeds, not just the Western monotheist majority. As a member of a social minority, I and many people I know struggle to cope with the realities of monotheistic privilege and bias in every facet of society. For me, the 2009 inauguration was another not-so-subtle slap in the face. The religious speakers and Justice Roberts ignited an internal monologue within me that reminded me of my place in society and the unkind reality of pro-Western monotheist bias in all forms of government. Such language in our ceremony and custom is truly injurious to our nation as a whole.

Being 24 years old, I expect to witness at least 12 future inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 19, 2009.

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

*Dustin Wittmann*  
*W154N7864 Rosewood Drive*  
*Menomonee Falls, WI 53051*

I, Earl D. York II, declare as follows:

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

I am a member of the New York City Atheists, the Freedom from Religion Foundation, and the ACLU.

I consider myself a secular humanist and atheist.

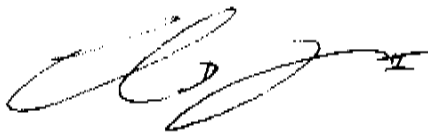
I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama with a large group of people in a conference room of Beth Israel Hospital.

As the inauguration started, I was buoyed up by the good feeling I felt with my fellow viewers. When, however, Mr. Warren came on and started invoking his invisible friend, I realized the camaraderie was a façade; if people knew my true feelings, I would at best be suspect or at worse a pariah. The fact that President Obama has to kowtow to Mr. Warren's invisible friend at the end of the constitutional oath is the icing on the cake. We should no more ask god for help than we should Huckleberry Finn.

Being 38 years old, I expect to witness at least 10 future inaugurations during my lifetime. I would hope that at least one of those can finally include me rather than exclude me.

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 'Earl D. York II', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Earl D. York II  
51 Spruce St.  
Jersey City NJ 07306

I, *Andrew M. Young* declare as follows:

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

I consider myself a *Atheist and an American*.

I have *watched every inauguration since Richard Nixon ,1969*

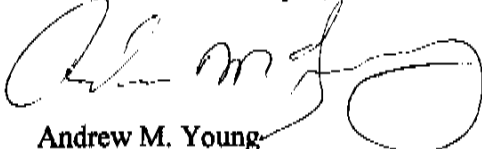
I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama *at my home live on television* .

As I watched this inauguration, I couldn't help but wonder , what if it had been me or one of my children being sworn in , as Atheists would I (we) be expected to endure all the prayers to Jesus and God ? Would I (we) be expected to say so help me god as part of my (our) oath? Would we be expected to forget that in this country there are no religious tests and accept an oath that clearly violates the very Constitution we are swearing to uphold.? Our founders drafted an oath that ALL Americans could proudly accept ,and recite with out reservation, I think tradition demands that we respect their wishes.

Being *50* years old, I expect to witness *at least 5* future inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 19, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Young', written over a horizontal line.

Andrew M. Young

109 Nita Dr. Seffner Florida 33584

# Terrence "Lee" Zehrer

2125 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA 98121 USA Phone: (858) 488-0181, Cell: (619) 306-1776

E-mail: LeeZehrer@hotmail.com

February 13, 2009

Terrence "Lee" Zehrer  
2125 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Apt 2203  
Seattle, WA 98121

I, Terrence "Lee" Zehrer, declare as follows:

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

I am a Vietnam Veteran having served with the Navy and Marine Corps 1968-69 I Corps including Hue City during the TET offensive. I have been a "fox-hole" atheist since 1968.

I am a member of American Atheist, Freedom From Religion Foundation, Military Religious Freedom Foundation, American Humanist Association, Center For Inquiry, Secular Coalition for America and Skeptics Society.

I consider myself a secular humanist and atheist.

I have watched Presidential inaugurations on television since Gerald Ford in 1974. I was still in SE Asia for Richard Nixon's inauguration in 1969 but I remember watching films in the NCO club sometime later.

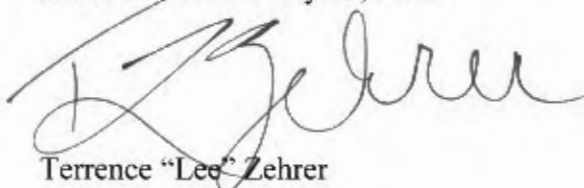
I watched the 2009 inauguration of Barack Obama on television while simultaneously on the CNN Internet site messaging friends and the public on Facebook.

**I am huge Thomas Jefferson and Ben Franklin fan.** I am in constant amazement at how these founding fathers could essentially ignore 2000 years of the dark and middle ages and draw most everything from the Ancient Greeks and Romans to set up this country. Allow me to be more specific, they did not copy from the Roman Catholic Church or Christianity but from the Ancient Greeks and Romans. But they did and it's still working.

I think my role models, Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Franklin, would have been as upset at all the references to God and faith as I was. You see, as you know, part of the reason they created this country was to get away from the persecution of certain religions in Europe. They had different views of Christianity, especially Mr. Jefferson, but they were still Americans. Did I serve my country in the 60's in fox holes and rice paddies dodging 122 mm rockets for naught? My views of Christianity are similar to Mr. Jefferson's and I am an American atheist. But at this inauguration I felt completely disenfranchised.

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

Executed on February 13, 2009.



Terrence "Lee" Zehrer

I, George Zerba, declare as follows:

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

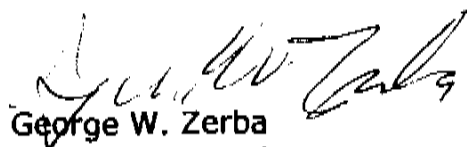
I am a member of Pennsylvania Non-Believers.

I am an atheist. I have not been able to watch inaugurations, due to school and, later, work. I have always been distressed, when I watch them later on television, to hear "so help me God" added at the end of the Presidential oath. I did not see it live this year, but I saw it on television later, and I remain unhappy that the phrase was added. I was sorry that it was felt necessary to have prayers at the inauguration, prayers that excluded million of Americans from full participation in this extraordinary event.

I am 59 years old. I hope to see four or five future inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 15, 2009.



George W. Zerba  
354 W. Newton Ave.  
York, PA 17401



I, Mary Zerba, 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 Non-Believers.

I am an atheist. I watched the 2009 Inauguration of Barack Obama on television at my home. In the past I remember watching some inaugurations when I could; because of school, and, later, work, I have not always been able to. I watched the inauguration of John F. Kennedy from my classroom, watched the indoor inauguration of Ronald Reagan and the first inauguration of George W. Bush on television. As I watched this inauguration, I was distressed to hear Chief Justice Roberts add the "so help me God" at the end of the presidential oath, words that the authors of the Constitution did not feel necessary. I was sorry that it was felt necessary to have prayers at the inauguration, prayers that excluded millions of Americans from full participation in this extraordinary event.

I am 58 years old. I hope to see four or five future inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 13, 2009.

  
Mary P. Zerba  
354 W. Newton Ave.  
York, PA 17401

I, Steve Ziolkowski, 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.

I consider myself an atheist.

I have watched the inaugurations of 1993, 1997, 2001 and 2005 on television at my home. I also saw the 2009 inauguration on the internet at home.

As I watched this inaugural celebration, I was disappointed by how much religion was a part of it. I understand that the phrase "So help me god" has been a tradition that has been used by many (though not all) presidents over the last hundred years or so. While it does bother me, I can let it slide; as so many oft repeated sayings go, the underlying message usually gets watered down and becomes more habit than anything truly meaningful.

However, the prayers I found to be truly exclusionary. Rick Warren, Joseph Lowery, Gene Robinson; these men all invoked god multiple (and in Dr. Lowery's case *way* too many) times and Rick Warren specifically mentioned Jesus which to my mind excludes everyone *but* Christians.

The inauguration is supposed to be for everyone, not just the religious. Barack Obama was the first President I've ever voted for who I truly thought would represent me, and he did in fact mention nonbelievers in his inaugural speech. But one passing remark does not make up for the fact that religion, and specifically the Christian religion, was such a major part of the ceremony and that it excluded so many people. The unchurched, according to recent polls, make up anywhere between thirteen to seventeen percent of the population. That is a huge amount of folks who are left out as second class citizens when politicians and judges invoke specific deities during a ceremony meant for everyone.

Being 38 years old, I expect to witness at least 10 more inaugurations during my lifetime.

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

Executed on February 19, 2009.



Steve Ziolkowski  
1718 N. Evergreen St.  
Burbank, CA  
91505

I, Henry H. Zumach, declare as follows:

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

I am on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, President and co-founder of La Crosse Area Freethought Society, and a member of Interfaith Alliance, Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Humanist Association, Democrats for Religious Freedom and attend Unitarian-Universalist services.

I consider myself a Secular 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 live on television at my home.

As I watched this inauguration, I was saddened, angry, and, once again, felt a sense of isolation and exclusion by the Christian ministers invoking their god and having the President and Chief Justice exclaiming "So help me God" as though those words were a part of the oath prescribed in the Constitution.

Being 66 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.



Henry. H. Zumach  
N2546 State Road 35  
Stoddard, WI 54658