CARL N. MERKLE
TRUTH, JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY
TruthJusticeAccountability.org
Carl@TruthJusticeAccountability.org

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS
RECEIVED
Nov 05, 2026
FIFTH CIRCUIT

November 5, 2026

Attorneys for Respondents

William Robert Peterson, Counsel of Record
Office of the Texas Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548 (MC-059)
Austin, TX 78711-2548
william.peterson@oag.texas.gov
Ph: 512-936-1700

Daniel Moshe Ortner
Office of the Texas Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711
daniel.ortner@oag.texas.gov
Ph: (512) 936-1896

Re: SB10: Educational Value, Justice, and Accountability (No. 26-257)

Dear Mr. Peterson and Mr. Ortner:

I recognize that your approaching filing deadline leaves little time for additional considerations. My involvement in Nathan, Cribbs Ringer, and Ashby has been in support of SB10. I write to introduce a broader public discussion I intend to develop at TruthJusticeAccountability.org: What educational value does displaying the Ten Commandments offer, and how should that value relate to the conduct of those entrusted with administering justice?

SB10 requires donated Ten Commandments displays that contain statutory language without requiring student recitation, affirmation, or instruction. I support that legislative choice while recognizing that future legislatures may choose to repeal it and other states may pursue similar laws. The lasting question is whether these displays contribute to students' understanding of our legal and moral inheritance (history and traditions)—and whether public institutions and their representatives practice the principles displayed.

My experience in federal bankruptcy proceedings, and the institutional failures alleged in my Supreme Court petitions, Nos. 24-6088 and 25-6192, make this question deeply personal. Public acknowledgment of moral principles carries a corresponding responsibility to practice them.

My request is that you consider this question in your work defending SB10: How can Texas connect its defense of these displays with a credible commitment to the justice and accountability those principles demand?

I intend to publish this letter as an opening to that discussion and would welcome your perspective.

Respectfully,
Carl N. Merkle
TruthJusticeAccountability.org

cc: Jonathan K. Youngwood; John Archer Meiser
Recipient and cc details follow on page 2.

CARL N. MERKLE
TRUTH, JUSTICE & ACCOUNTABILITY
TruthJusticeAccountability.org
Carl@TruthJusticeAccountability.org

RECIPIENT AND CC DETAILS

Attorneys for Respondents

William Robert Peterson, Counsel of Record
Office of the Texas Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548 (MC-059)
Austin, TX 78711-2548
william.peterson@oag.texas.gov
Ph: 512-936-1700
Party name: Alamo Heights Sch. Dis., et al.

Daniel Moshe Ortner
Office of the Texas Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711
daniel.ortner@oag.texas.gov
Ph: (512) 936-1896
Party name: Alamo Heights Sch. Dis., et al.

cc: Attorneys for Petitioners

Jonathan K. Youngwood
Counsel of Record
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, LLP
425 Lexington Avenue
New York, NY 10017
jyoungwood@stblaw.com | Ph: 212-455-3539
Party name: Rabbi Mara Nathan, et al.

cc: Other Attorneys

John Archer Meiser
Counsel of Record
Lindsay and Matt Moroun Religious Liberty Clinic
Notre Dame Law School
1338 Biolchini Hall of Law
Notre Dame, IN 46556
jmeiser@nd.edu | Ph: 574-631-3880
Party name: Professors Mark Storslee, John Meiser, Douglas Laycock, Nathan Chapman, Thomas Berg, Christopher Lund, Michael Helfand, Steven Collis, Meredith Kessler, Carl Esbeck, John Inzau, Asma Uddin, Christopher Hampson, and Kathleen Brady