

JUDGE RULES TO PROTECT MILLENIA-OLD ORTHODOX JEWISH CEREMONY

Los Angeles – Today, U.S. District Court judge André Birotte, Jr. granted a legal victory to the Chabad of Irvine, a small Orthodox Jewish synagogue in Irvine. The judge dismissed a lawsuit brought against the synagogue by animal rights activists, who sought to end a 1200-year-old Orthodox Jewish ceremony practiced by the synagogue

Read the full order [here](#).

“We are overjoyed that the judge saw the wisdom of protecting our ability to practice a cherished tradition of our faith,” Rabbi Alter Tenenbaum, the rabbi of the Chabad of Irvine, says. “We hope this victory will encourage everyone to live in peace and tolerance of everyone’s religious beliefs.”

The synagogue was represented in the legal case by international law firm WilmerHale and national religious freedom law firm First Liberty Institute.

“Today’s ruling sends a clear message – the law protects the rights of all Americans to practice their religious traditions in peace,” Matthew Martens, partner with WilmerHale and lead counsel for the synagogue, says.

“No one should attack a synagogue for peacefully practicing a tradition they’ve observed for over 1000 years.” Hiram Sasser, Deputy Chief Counsel for First Liberty Institute and co-counsel for the synagogue, says. “This is a great victory, not only for the synagogue, but for all Americans who value our constitutional freedoms.”

Read more about the case at FirstLiberty.org/Chabad

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About First Liberty Institute

[First Liberty Institute](http://FirstLiberty.org) is the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to defending religious freedom for all Americans.

To arrange an interview, contact Abigail Doty at adoty@firstliberty.org or by calling 469-440-7598 (office) or 469-237-9102 (cell).