Our federal courts may not be able to help us! Since 1981 the federal courts, through the president's appointment power, have been moving away from strict enforcement of the Bill of Rights. And we have not yet felt the full force of the weakening of the courts' support for our fundamental rights!

Most Americans reject the agenda of the Radical Right and sectarian special interests, but are not adequately organized to stop the moral majoritarian juggernaut.

But all is not lost. We the People can make the crucial difference. We can and will determine, by action or inaction, whether our country progresses toward ever greater freedom or turns the calendar back to an intolerant, obscurantist, oppressive Dark Age. Defenders of basic freedoms and church-state separation have shown that we can win impressive victories in the courts, in Congress, in state legislatures, and in state referendum elections on school prayer, abortion rights, tax aid for sectarian schools, creationism, freedom of expression, etc. Voices of reason, though usually outspent and outorganized, won anyway.

We -- you and I and other Americans who care about our basic freedoms -- can, indeed MUST concentrate and multiply our efforts!

One very good way to do that is through AMERICANS FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY, on whose National Advisory Board I am pleased to serve.

AMERICANS FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY is a nationwide, nonprofit, educational organization open to all who share its deep commitment to the American ideals of individual rights, pluralism, and church-state separation. Through its publications, speakers bureau, coast-to-coast media appearances, research, testimony before Congress, litigation activity, and coalition building, ARL is making an increasingly important difference.

Here are some of ARL's recent activities and accomplishments --

- ARL organized and presented to the Supreme Court in 1989 an amicus curiae (friend-of-the-court) brief representing 167 distinguished scientists, including 12 Nobel laureates, in support of reproductive choice in the case of Webster v. Reproductive Health Services. The ARL brief was cited in the press more than any other!

- ARL's 1989 book Abortion Rights and Fetal 'Personhood', co-edited by its executive director, Edd Doerr, is one of the most important works published on reproductive choice. It has been highly praised by Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice, and Alfred McClung Lee, past president of the American Sociological Association.

- ARL is involved in federal court litigation challenging the constitutionality of the federal government's diverting U.S. public funds to the support of sectarian private schools abroad.

- ARL has reached millions of Americans through the print and electronic media with its educational messages on constitutional rights, religious freedom, and church-state separation.

- ARL's brisk newsletter, Voice of Reason, regularly informs readers about new threats to basic rights, sectarian intrusion into public education, how much your taxes are being used for sectarian purposes. The newsletter also keeps readers up to date on what is being done about church-state separation violations.

- ARL was very much involved in the effort to expose the anti-church-state-separation views of Reagan Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork.

- ARL is a source of information and advice to journalists, scholars, and organizations.

- ARL's president, John M. Swomley, and executive director, Edd Doerr, are two of the country's leading authorities on religious liberty and church-state relations. They form the core of ARL's speakers bureau.

I could go on, but that should be enough to show you that Americans for Religious Liberty deserves your support.

I urge you to do your part today by sending ARL a check -- for a basic membership or for whatever amount you think our fundamental liberties are worth. Every donation, large or small, really counts. Donations are tax-deductible. All donor/members receive ARL's informative newsletter, Voice of Reason.

Yours for freedom,

Isaac Asimov

Isaac Asimov
National Advisory Board
Americans for Religious Liberty

P.S. If you will send a donation of $25 or more, ARL will send you a complimentary copy of ARL executive director Edd Doerr's book, Religious Liberty in Crisis. For a donation of $35 or more, ARL will send you Religious Liberty in Crisis PLUS Abortion Rights and Fetal 'Personhood', edited by Edd Doerr and neuropsychologist James W. Prescott.

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