



# LEGAL AND COURTS

Business Church Culture Education Legal-Courts Missions National Security Persecution Perspectives Politics-Gov't

## Church challenges forced landmarking

Charlie Butts - OneNewsNow - 9/23/2010 3:35:00 AM [ADD THIS](#)

A lawsuit has been filed on behalf of an Indiana church that wants to break free from a historical landmark designation.



Cumberland's St. John United Church of Christ, which was constructed in 1914, has become dilapidated in recent years. Attorney Robert Greene of [Stortzer and Greene, P.L.L.C.](#) explains that church officials want to sell the facility and move elsewhere because "the cost of repairing the building is more than ten times the church's total annual revenues."

The Indianapolis Historical Preservation Commission has recommended landmarking the property, meaning it must be preserved. But the attorney explains that that suggestion has created an odd predicament.



"It also, as a result, virtually guarantees that the building itself will not even be preserved because there's simply no money to do it," Greene notes.

Meanwhile, the church is barred from doing anything to change the building, including selling it or demolishing it. But the attorney believes there are issues in the case that violate the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA).

"Certainly this is a serious RLUIPA issue -- that's the principle grounds that we filed under," he reports. "We also filed on constitutional grounds and under Indiana law as well."

Greene thinks the landmark commission is over-burdening the free exercise of religion, but to no useful purpose. So the lawsuit is asking the court to order all parties involved to cease and desist what they are doing to the church.

SUBSCRIBE to Our Podcast  
facebook  
twitter

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ (average 2 out of 5)

[View Comments](#)

Other Stories in Legal and Courts

- [Court lifts ban on 'gay' adoption in Fla.](#)
- [Faith-based hiring in jeopardy](#)
- [Free-speech victory still threatened](#)
- [ADF still defending roadside crosses](#)
- [Church challenges forced landmarking](#)
- [Abortuary has bond with Illinois city](#)
- [New Black Panther investigation 'an excellent idea'](#)

[Hear Report](#) [Email This Story](#) [Print This Story](#)

ONENESSNOW VIDEO  
Sd Flooding Siddiqui Sentence Ntsb Close Call

BEGINNING DRAWING WITH BARRY STEBBING  
PURCHASE NOW

AP LATEST HEADLINES  
[Fla. bank robbers strap bomb to abducted teller](#)  
[Pace of new home sales second slowest on record](#)  
[Forensic expert testifies in home invasion trial](#)  
[Wis. regulators reopen 'sexting DA' investigation](#)  
POLITICAL INSIDER: Palin targets health overhaul  
[AP Headlines RSS](#)

[CA county contests judge's marriage ruling](#)[Pro-family group target of Islamic hacker](#)[Embryonic stem-cell researchers rush funding](#)[Pro-lifers call for deeper punishment](#)[Conductor's Quran burning a constitutional right](#)[Judge overrides state, reopens LA abortion clinic](#)[NJ train conductor fired after burning Quran](#)[ACLU inconsistent applying 'right to life'](#)[Avoiding responsibility, ignoring the law](#)[Court, White House team up against 'gay' ban](#)[Mass. abortionist guilty of manslaughter](#)[Protect and serve - or harass and arrest?](#)[Annual holiday event: Haggie over religious displays](#)

If you believe OneNewsNow.com is an important source for Christian news, please consider a [small tax-deductible gift](#) for this service.

**YOUR WORLD NOW****U.S.**[show more](#) [Witness: Home invasion flames drove back rescuers](#)[Newark mayor's crime-fighting led to \\$100M gift](#)[Judge halts criminal proceedings against Garrido](#)[Govt. delays rule opposed by for-profit colleges\(3\)](#)[Ohio man sentenced in videotaped cow cruelty case\(2\)](#)**Business**[show more](#) [Tech companies settle DOJ hiring inquiry\(2\)](#)[Summary Box: Gold hits record highs\(7\)](#)[Stocks reignite a rally as economic woes fade](#)[KB Home 3rd-quarter loss narrows as revenue rises\(4\)](#)[Hertz says last bid for Dollar Thrifty is final\(3\)](#)**Sports**[show more](#) [Source: Nets working on deal for Carmelo Anthony](#)[AP source: Nets working on Carmelo Anthony deal](#)[Packers guard Colledge suffers knee injury](#)[Kansas C. Jeff Withey has broken foot](#)[Grizzlies sign 1st round picks Henry, Vasquez](#)**World**[show more](#) [Small-town mayors targeted by Mexican drug gangs](#)[Prosecutors: Skydiving love triangle led to murder\(3\)](#)[Ahmadinejad says Iran may end enrichment\(5\)](#)[Queen tried to get UK poverty fund to heat palace\(5\)](#)[Prosecutors: Skydiving love triangle led to murder\(2\)](#)**Missions**[The Marketplace Million'](#)[Flooding displaces millions in India](#)['Vacation with a Purpose' winners changed in Guatemala](#)[Bible.is for Android App Released](#)[SAT-7 challenges believers while spreading the Gospel](#)

All Original Content Copyright 2006-2008 American Family News Network - All Rights Reserved.

[Policies](#) | [Get the ONN RSS Feed](#) | [Contact Us](#)

"OneNewsNow", "OneNewsNow.com", and the "OneNewsNow World" logo, are Trademarks of the American Family News Network - All Rights Reserved

9/24/2010 3:56:03 PM