

The Grumpy Disciple #8

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What's In a Name? Plenty of Lawsuits

The American Civil Liberties Organization (ACLO) recently announced a new anti-religious attack. This time they have a problem with name calling – real name calling. Specifically, the titles of certain American cities, towns, villages and a much loved breed of dogs.

The ACLO is a little known civil rights group considered by the ACLU to be something of an unwanted and oft confused, step-sister. Their latest action is noteworthy though.

Municipalities which are titled with a religious name will be notified to drop it immediately or be sued. An ACLO spokesperson said, “The goal is to rid all such locations of their uppity, holy sounding, saint-ishness!”

A press release explained the latest efforts. “No sane, mature or well-fed person believes in Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny or that it never rains in southern California! And so, to believe that a religious person is an actual place is also just as preposterous! Think of Saint Paul for example. There is no historical evidence that the Apostle Paul ever visited or settled down in Minnesota. Did he ever baptize anyone in the Mississippi River? No. So, we demand that all local governments bearing a religious person’s name strip away all such outdated, old fashioned and foolhardy notions.”

The organization deems that “saint” and the Spanish equivalent “San” or “Santa” be deleted from all places within the U.S. or its territories. “Important Person” is a proposed remedy. Such as, “Francisco That Important Person” or “That Important Person Francisco.” A spokesperson was quick to point out how ‘conveniently it works either way.’

“In our removal plan we propose that the city of Saint Paul, simply be called Paul. Perhaps for those of a more formal bent, Mr. Paul. Or, Big Paul, could do. Santa Monica, California could get along just as nicely as Monica’s, Ms. Monica, That Monica Place, or That Place of Monica’s or simply, Meet Monica. Residents can vote on it.

“In the same liberating vain, Santa Fe, New Mexico would become Fe. Los Angeles, Spanish for City of Angels can be, The City Of, and just leave the end BLANK.”

Their press release pushed its peculiar point further. “St. Petersburg, Florida might be renamed Peter’s Sunny Spot. San Francisco, San Antonio, and San Jose can be freed up to become logically, Frank’s, Tony’s, or Jose’s. There is plenty of room for creativity.

“Santa Barbara? Barbie’s Neighborhood or Barb’s Really Special Beach. And who couldn’t resist Lou’s or Louie’s instead of saintly Saint Louis? Does anybody even know who Saint Louis was/is? Does he do anything like show up at the opening of a new WAL-MART? Ever?”

In summation, the ACLO’s goal has been made strangely clear. “With these significant changes, a person will be able to identify with their town or city without embarrassment due to religious association.”

Potentially, lawsuits could be filed in all 50 states representing 314 disputable names.

Oh, the breed of dog which offends the organization? Saint Bernard. How about Big Bernie?

These Things Make Me Grumpy!

Another story from REAL LIFE (that I made up!) This parody news story is for amusement. Any similarity to real people, places or things is fictitious and not to be taken as fact.