

# Supreme Court decisions impact Ohio cases

One of our sweetest legal victories came this year from the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Austin v. Wilkinson* – a case regarding the notorious “Supermax” prison in Youngstown.

In June, the court ruled that the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections must have formal procedures for assigning prisoners to the facility. The court also approved a placement scheme developed during the course of this litigation.

In January 2001, our office, along with the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York, sued the DRC over its seemingly haphazard – and in many cases non-existent – process for selecting which Ohio prisoners were sent to Youngstown. We argued the lack of standards violated the prisoners' right to due process.

Special thanks go out to our volunteer attorneys: **Alice** and

**Staughton Lynd, Michael Benza, and Terry Gilbert.**

The court's rulings in two high-profile cases concerning Ten Commandments displays in Kentucky and Texas reinforce rulings we've won in similar lawsuits.

We challenged Ten Commandment displays in Adams and Richland counties – and won in appeals court. But lawyers on the other side asked for a Supreme Court review. The court refused requests following its ruling in June. That means our cases are closed: we won and there will be no further appeals.

For more information on these cases and the work of the ACLU of Ohio legal department, including our complete litigation docket, visit [www.acluohio.org](http://www.acluohio.org) and click on *Litigation*.

– Gary Daniels,  
*Litigation Coordinator*