



**Robert Eckels
County Judge**

NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY JUDGE ECKELS PLEASED WITH FIFTH CIRCUIT RULING ON BIBLE MONUMENT

Houston - The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled this morning to grant Harris County's motion to stay final judgment regarding the Staley vs. Harris County - Mosher Monument - lawsuit. The Bible in the Mosher monument can remain pending further rulings of the Court.

"The Commissioners and I are heartened and encouraged by the fact that the Fifth Circuit Court has granted a stay in this case," Judge Eckels stated today. "There are very important legal issues that can be resolved only by an appellate decision."

"This case is about recognizing Mr. Mosher and his service to the community, added Eckels. "It is a monument operated by the Star of Hope Mission, a faith-based organization, representing the thousands of people the mission helps today through work begun by William Mosher over fifty years ago. It is important for us to know when the recognition of individuals, who happen to be people of faith, becomes state promotion of religion, which we believe this is not. " This can be resolved only by a decision of the appellate courts."

As a result of the ruling, Harris County Commissioners Court ordered County Attorney Mike Stafford to vigorously pursue this appeal.

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