

CONTROLLING LEGAL PRINCIPLES

Free Exercise Clause Decision – “Contemplation of Justice”

United States v. Macintosh, 283 U.S. 605 (1931)



MR. CHIEF JUSTICE HUGHES, *dissenting*

The essence of religion is belief in a relation to God involving duties superior to those

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arising from any human relation. As was stated by Mr. Justice Field in *Davis v. Beason*, 133 U. S. 333, 133 U. S. 342:

"The term 'religion' has reference to one's views of his relations to his Creator, and to the obligations they impose of reverence for his being and character, and of obedience to his will."