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**NEWS CURB AT TRIAL
OPPOSED BY A.C.L.U.**
NYTimes

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 28 (AP)—The American Civil Liberties Union has joined the fight to overturn a gag order on the news media ordered by a Superior Court judge presiding over the shot-gun slaying of a 4-year-old girl, Joyce Ann Huff.

Several news organizations and the District Attorney's office are attempting to have the order by Judge Julius Leetham ruled unconstitutional.

However, the A.C.L.U. brief filed with the Second District Court of Appeal yesterday disagreed with District Attorney Joseph Busch's contention that prosecutors and law enforcement personnel should not be subject to Judge Leetham's order.

"Pre-trial publicity statements could jeopardize the right to a fair trial, and Judge Leetham's order should be upheld insofar as it prevents potential prejudicial statements by officials," a civil liberties union spokesman, Harriet Katz, said.

"A ban on the press, however, is unconstitutional prior restraint or censorship, in violation of the First Amendment, and that portion of Judge Leetham's order should be overturned," she added.