



“ *When it comes to winning big cases for the religious liberty of Americans, First Liberty Institute shines.* ”  
- Paul Clement, former Solicitor General of the United States

## WHO WE ARE

First Liberty Institute is the largest legal organization in the nation dedicated exclusively to protecting religious freedom for all Americans. Since 1997, First Liberty has been working across the nation to secure religious freedom in four major areas:



the military



religious organizations



schools



public arena

As a nonprofit organization, First Liberty works with some of the nation's top attorneys on a *pro bono* basis to defend the religious liberties of all Americans. First Liberty's legal team has argued and won cases at every level, including the Supreme Court of the United States.

Our attorneys have been featured in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, and appeared on CNN, ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX News, and more.

Government officials, community leaders, religious organizations, and members of the press, routinely seek out members of First Liberty's legal team as subject matter experts on the First Amendment. First Liberty's annual index of religious hostility in America, [\*Undeniable\*](#), provides the most comprehensive catalog on the topic in the country.

## WHAT WE DO

First Liberty protects religious liberty. We believe that true religious liberty means recognizing the fundamental right of all people—including all ages, races, genders, and faiths—to follow their consciences and to live according to their beliefs. Our mission is simple: restore religious liberty for all Americans. First Liberty's clients include:



### [Orthodox Jewish Synagogues Practicing Sacred Religious Ritual:](#)

In 2016, a poultry-rights activist organization sued an Orthodox Jewish synagogue in Irvine, California for practicing kaporos, a religious ceremony in which the atonement of sins is contemplated through prayer and the humane and kosher killing of a chicken prior to Yom Kippur. First Liberty successfully advocated lifting a federal restraining order against the synagogue's members, permitting them to continue their religious practice and successfully fought to have the case dismissed. First Liberty [continues to advocate](#) for Orthodox Jewish congregations practicing kaporos.

[Military Veterans of Native American Faith:](#) In March 2015, a Veterans Administration hospital in Kansas prohibited members of a Native American sweat lodge from meeting on VA property, as they had done for the previous seven years. The medical center also suspended the leader of the sweat lodge and forbade him from contacting its members. First Liberty sent a demand letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs and helped secure the religious liberty rights of veterans who follow the Native American faith.



### [Houston 5th Ward Churches Threatened with Eminent Domain:](#)

In 2015, the Houston Housing Authority (HHA) initiated eminent domain proceedings against two historic African American congregations in Houston's 5th Ward. After First Liberty intervened, the HHA voluntarily dismissed all efforts to seize and bulldoze these churches whose decades of service to their community transformed their inner city neighborhood.

[Coach Joe Kennedy:](#) In 2015, Bremerton High School terminated Football Coach Joe Kennedy for taking a knee after the school's football game concluded and silently praying alone for 15-30 seconds. First Liberty filed a lawsuit against the school district on Coach Kennedy's behalf, defending the coach's First Amendment right to pray and asking that his job be reinstated. The case is pending on appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

