



FIRST



LIBERTY

OUR HISTORY

-at the-

SUPREME COURT

-of the-

UNITED STATES

2018: FIRST LIBERTY WINS KEY FIGHT FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN THE HOME

Sause v. Bauer

First Liberty won a key fight for religious liberty at the Supreme Court in the case of Mary Anne Sause, who was told by two police officers to stop praying in her own living room. The Supreme Court's decision is a crucial victory that reaffirmed religious liberty in one of the most sacred and protected spaces – the home.

2017: FIRST LIBERTY FILES AMICUS BRIEF SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission

In *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, First Liberty filed an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to rule in favor of Colorado baker Jack Phillips. The brief was filed on behalf of our clients, Aaron and Melissa Klein, former owners of a family bakery, Sweet Cakes by Melissa. The state of Oregon penalized Aaron and Melissa because they refused to create a custom cake for a same-sex wedding due to their religious beliefs. In *Masterpiece*, The Supreme Court ruled that the government must be neutral toward, and respectful of, the religious beliefs of its citizens, even if those beliefs are not popular. That decision sets a precedent that reaffirms Aaron and Melissa's constitutional rights.

2016: FIRST LIBERTY INSTITUTE APPEALS HISTORIC MILITARY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CASE

Sterling v. United States

First Liberty Institute and nationally renowned litigator Paul Clement filed a petition for writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court, asking the Supreme Court to accept the case of *Sterling v. United States*. The case centered on the question of how the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) applies to both members of the military and the American public.

2016: FIRST LIBERTY FILES AMICUS BRIEF SUPPORTING NON-PROFIT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Zubik v. Burwell

In *Zubik v. Burwell*, First Liberty filed an amicus brief at the Supreme Court, arguing that the HHS mandate forces certain religious organizations to violate their faith by compelling them to provide insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs to employees.

2016: FIRST LIBERTY FILES AMICUS BRIEF SUPPORTING NON-PROFIT RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Little Sisters of the Poor v. Burwell & East Texas Baptist v. Burwell

On behalf of Christian & Missionary Alliance colleges and retirement communities, First Liberty filed an amicus brief at the Supreme Court, arguing that the HHS mandate forces certain religious organizations to violate their faith by compelling them to provide insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs to employees.

2015: FIRST LIBERTY FILES AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPREME COURT MARRIAGE CASE SUPPORTING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RIGHTS

Obergefell v. Hodges

In the historic U.S. Supreme Court case, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, First Liberty Institute filed an amicus brief, arguing that the First Amendment protects ministers, teachers, and speakers who are compelled by faith to preach aloud their religious beliefs on marriage. In the June 2015 decision, the Court opinion stated, “The First Amendment ensures that religious organizations and persons are given proper protection as they seek to teach the principles that are so fulfilling and so central to their lives and faiths”. This recognized the central concerns expressed in First Liberty’s amicus brief and addressed the importance of religious freedom protections.

2015: FIRST LIBERTY FILES SUPREME COURT BRIEF TO PROTECT RELIGIOUS EXERCISE IN PRISONS

Holt v. Hobbs

In *Holt v. Hobbs*, First Liberty filed an amicus brief on behalf of leading academic sociologists, urging the High Court to reverse a ruling that prohibited an inmate from having a beard for religious purposes.

2014: U.S. SUPREME COURT PROTECTS PRAYER BEFORE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Town of Greece v. Galloway

On behalf of a group of highly respected theologians, First Liberty Institute filed an amicus brief in *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, in which the Supreme Court reaffirms the constitutionality of public prayer before governmental meetings.

2014: FIRST LIBERTY FILES AMICUS BRIEF IN HOBBY LOBBY CASE

Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores

In the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores*, First Liberty filed an amicus brief supporting Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. and Conestoga Wood Specialties Corporation. The Court's ruling recognized the right of business owners to operate according to their religious beliefs.

2014: FIRST LIBERTY PETITIONS TO THE SUPREME COURT FOR MEMORIAL CROSS MT. SOLEDAD

Mount Soledad Memorial Association v. Trunk

In 2011, the Ninth Circuit Court ruled that the Mt. Soledad memorial cross, which stood in memorial for over 3,500 people, was unconstitutional. Throughout a long and hard battle, First Liberty fought for the memorial all the way to the Supreme Court. First Liberty filed several petitions to the Supreme Court and while the Court did not hear the case, the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association was able to buy the land, ultimately saving the memorial.

2012: FIRST LIBERTY FILES AMICUS BRIEF ON BEHALF OF RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School v. EEOC

First Liberty filed an amicus brief at the Supreme Court on behalf of religious schools nationwide, including Jewish, Christian, and Seventh Day Adventist private schools. The Court's 9-0 decision in favor of the Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran School established strong protections for religious employment decisions.

2010: MOJAVE DESERT VETERANS MEMORIAL SAVED AT U.S. SUPREME COURT

Salazar v. Buono

First Liberty successfully defended the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial at the U.S. Supreme Court. In a landmark 5-4 decision citing First Liberty's amicus brief a record 12 times, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the land transfer of the veteran's memorial to First Liberty Institute's client, the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

2010: FIRST LIBERTY SUPPORTS AUTONOMY OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS ON CAMPUS

Christian Legal Society v. Martinez

First Liberty filed an *amicus* brief at the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing for the rights of student-led religious groups on campuses after the Christian Legal Society Chapter of the University of California was denied recognition because of its statement of faith membership requirement.

2009: FIRST LIBERTY FILES AN AMICUS BRIEF FOR PROTECTION OF VETERAN'S MEMORIALS

Pleasant Grove City v. Summum

First Liberty filed an *amicus* brief on behalf of The American Legion to make sure that veterans memorials would be protected across the country. First Liberty offered legal expertise and helped prepare the lead counsel for oral arguments before the Supreme Court. As part of our involvement, First Liberty attorneys helped lead counsel argue that cities should have the ability to erect and keep privately donated veteran's memorials.

2005: TEN COMMANDMENTS DISPLAY ON TEXAS CAPITAL GROUNDS SAVED

Thomas Van Orden v. Rick Perry

First Liberty was instrumental in helping the attorney General of Texas – now Governor Greg Abbot – prepare for oral arguments. Our legal team also filed an *amicus* brief at the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the original donors of the Ten Commandments monument outside the Texas Capitol. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling held that the monument is constitutional, echoing the arguments First Liberty made in its brief. Following the Court's decision, First Liberty received special thanks from Greg Abbot for our help on the case.

2005: PRECEDENT-SETTING VICTORY ATTAINED FOR RELIGIOUS MINORITY GROUP

Gonzalez v. O'Centro

In the case of *Gonzalez v. O'Centro*, the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court issued a final opinion by unanimously adopting an argument in an *amicus* brief filed by First Liberty. The Court ultimately held that under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the federal government could not use international law as a reason to burden free religious expression. The decision set a precedent that prevents government from intruding in the ceremonies of religious minorities.

2001: VICTORY FOR RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AT U.S. SUPREME COURT

Good News Club v. Milford Central School

In this Supreme Court case, First Liberty served as a key player by filing an important amicus brief as well by helping to prepare the lead counsel for oral arguments. Ultimately, the Court's decision in this case protected the rights of religious organizations to use public school facilities after school hours.

2000: FIRST LIBERTY WRITES A WRIT OF CERTIORARI FOR THE DEFENSE OF STUDENT PRAYER

Santa Fe Independent School District v. Doe

In this Supreme Court case, First Liberty's President and CEO Kelly Shackelford participated as co-counsel alongside renown attorney Jay Sekulow and also collaborated with several of the nation's best religious freedom lawyers to draft a petition in defense of prayer at public sports games.



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