

June 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The Southeast Law Institute began as an organization fighting for religious freedom. In the 1980s, religious freedom was under attack. Along with a number of other similar organizations, we established many good precedents to protect religious freedom.

Now, however, we are seeing religious freedom attacked not only by the liberal agitators such as the ACLU, but through the government itself and big business. In our past struggle, the government was just a tool used by those attempting to eradicate religious freedom from the public square. Primarily, the federal courts, led by a liberal United States Supreme Court, restricted religious freedom.

Now we see the government itself as the protagonist. The agencies of government, such as the United States Justice Department, with instruction from the President, initiates attacks. We applaud Attorney General Luther Strange's joining a lawsuit in Texas to contest the drastic cultural overreach of the Obama Administration concerning use of restroom and locker room facilities for transgender persons. That lawsuit challenges the claims of the Obama Administration that federal laws allow him to dictate who will use what facilities.

We will continue our discussion of religious freedom. Many of our Educational Updates in the past addressed this and our latest was this past April. This month's Educational Update reviews the plight of Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore and its relationship to religious freedom and the federal laws mentioned above.

We know many want a report on what happened during the 2016 regular session of the Alabama Legislature. Our expectation is we will provide detailed reports on that in our July and August Educational Updates.

Thank you for your support and prayers. Please continue those for us, particularly as we come into the summer months when support tends to drop off. We appreciate your continuing trust in the efforts of SLI.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston