

September 2018

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This month's Educational Update focuses on the issue of sports gambling. September marks the beginning of football season, one of the most popular sports in America today. Everyone has a favorite college or professional team. Unfortunately, much of the interest in football, as well as other sports, is betting on who will win games. The betting even can get so specific as to whether a particular player may get a touchdown in a football game or strike out in a baseball game. Those who place wagers on sports have been doing so illegally in most places. The U.S. Supreme Court ("SCOTUS") recently ruled, however, it is possible for states to permit sports betting and regulate it.

We reported in our July Educational Update about the victory for the Colorado baker in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* case. As you recall, the CCRC determined that baker Jack Phillips violated the rights of two men who wanted to marry when he refused to make a wedding cake for them. SCOTUS ruled in his favor, but it was a very limited decision.

Two weeks after the Supreme Court released its opinion, the CCRC again brought charges against Mr. Phillips for refusing to bake a cake to celebrate the anniversary of a woman's coming out as "transgender." He explained to the CCRC he could not do so because it violated his religious beliefs about sex and God's status given males and females. He will now be forced to once again return to court to protect his religious rights.

Our suspicion is that the same-sex advocates saw the weakness of the SCOTUS opinion in the first case and are now pursuing a second case to exploit that weakness. One good thing, however, is that Justice Anthony Kennedy, who wrote the opinion, as well as all of the major homosexual rights opinions, has retired. He will be replaced by, we hope, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, who is expected to be more conservative in his views.

Please be in prayer for the confirmation of Judge Kavanaugh. Please pray for Jack Phillips as he again contends for religious freedom in the public square. Pray that SCOTUS will ultimately provide a very sound and broad opinion that will continue to uphold America's constitutionally protected religious freedom tradition.

SLI has been privileged to work on gambling and marriage issues in the State of Alabama. We will continue to do so. Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston