

August 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

In the recent SCOTUS term the court handed down distinct opinions that affect religious freedom. One of those redefined sex for employment purposes, as explained in this month's Educational Update. It was not a very good opinion. The other three, however, were very good.

In the 1960's and 70's, interpretations of the establishment clause overshadowed the free exercise clause. We begin working to protect the free exercise clause. SCOTUS is now realizing those efforts. Justices Thomas and Alito have carried their burden, but they are now joined by Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh. Chief Justice Roberts has also consistently voted, but we still have concerns about the strength of his commitment. For example, he recently sided with the four liberal justices refusing to review a Covid-19 church attendance case.

We are still not there. Over the next four months, our educational updates will evaluate each of these opinions. We will then analyze them going forward as we hope protection of our free exercise of religion will be given its proper strength.

Religious freedom is the hallmark of SLI. It colors all of what we do. Pray for SCOTUS to continue its proper and historic analysis.

Pray for our efforts as we apply those in the public square. A verse that we frequently turn to as we pray for our nation is 2 Chronicles 7:14:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

There is much strength in this passage. It requires much of us. But we have a God who is faithful. Thank you for your faithfulness.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston