

December 2020

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This month, we complete our series of Educational Updates on very important religious freedom cases that were decided by SCOTUS during this year's term. We have observed, with only one exception, the court's correct religion clause jurisprudence. It is refreshing to see the court finally interpreting the religion clauses as they were meant to be understood. The addition of Justice Amy Coney Barrett should continue that trend.

However, we are not so complacent as to think that these few cases will end the battle. For all appearances, there may be a new presidential administration whose policies will attack religious freedom. As we have expressed in the past, President Donald Trump has done more for correct religious freedom than any president in memory. We do not expect that from a Biden Administration.

These uncertainties were recently pointed out by SCOTUS Justice Samuel Alito in his address to the 2020 meeting of the Federalist Society. He mentioned several of the cases we have reported to you. There was a religious attack on Little Sisters of the Poor for refusing to provide contraceptive insurance coverage, and a Washington pharmacy who did not want to sell abortifacients, and the Masterpiece Bakeshop owner who did not want to prepare wedding cake for a gay wedding. These all involve Christian beliefs. He mentioned that while he has been on the court they have settled cases of a Muslim police officer's right to wear a hijab or a Jewish prisoner's right to have a Torah study group. His conclusion is that "[T]he question we face is whether our society will be inclusive enough to tolerate people with unpopular religious beliefs." He was not talking about the Muslim or the Jew. He was unequivocally recognizing that Christian beliefs are now unpopular and will be the subject of attacks. These attacks come from government.

The nature and magnitude of these attacks is uncertain right now. The outcome of the U.S. Senate races in Georgia will determine whether Democrats will have free reign in government, or whether the U.S. Senate may be a check on their extravagant proposals.

With the uncertainties of the election and the present-day raucous nature of the political process, we will continue to work on the issues of sanctity of life and religious freedom. Thank you for your support throughout this year.

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston