



## ***FACT SHEET*** ***K.A. v. Pocono Mountain School District***

### ***ABOUT K.A. v. Pocono Mountain School District***

In December 2010, Barrett Elementary Center in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountain School District prohibited a 5th-grade student from distributing fliers that invited her fellow students to a Christmas party at her church. Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys filed suit against the district in March 2011.

### ***CURRENT STATUS OF K.A. v. Pocono Mountain School District AS OF 10/23/12***

In October 2011, a federal court issued an order that prohibits the Pocono Mountain School District from continuing to stop a student from distributing fliers that invite other students to church parties and other religious events. The school district appealed, and oral arguments are scheduled to take place at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit on Oct. 24.

### ***WHAT IS AT STAKE?***

- Whether public schools should encourage, not shut down, the free exchange of ideas.
- Whether America's public schools should recognize the constitutionally-protected freedoms of religious students.
- Whether the Constitution should be the only permission slip students need to exercise their right to free speech.
- Whether marginalizing students of faith removes an important influence for good from the school community.

### ***CONTACT MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS***

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### ***ABOUT ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM***

Alliance Defending Freedom (formerly Alliance Defense Fund) is an alliance-building legal ministry that advocates for the right of people to freely live out their faith.

### ***ABOUT David Cortman***

David Cortman serves as senior counsel and vice-president of religious liberty with Alliance Defending Freedom at its Atlanta Regional Service Center in Georgia. Cortman joined Alliance Defending Freedom in 2005 and is admitted to the bar in Georgia, Florida, and the District of Columbia. He has practiced law since 1996 and graduated magna cum laude from the Regent University School of Law.

### ***ABOUT Matt Sharp***

Matthew Sharp serves as legal counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom at its Atlanta Regional Service Center in Georgia, where he plays a key role in defending and reclaiming the First Amendment rights of students on the Public School Litigation Team. Sharp joined Alliance Defending Freedom in 2010 and is a member of the bar in Tennessee. He is also admitted to practice in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida, and the U.S. Tax Court. Sharp earned his J.D. from the Vanderbilt University School of Law.