



FACT SHEET ***McCullen v. Coakley***

ABOUT McCullen v. Coakley

On Nov. 13, 2007, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick signed into law S.B. 1353, which created a 35-foot “buffer” zone to restrict pro-life advocates from talking with people entering abortion clinics. Alliance Defending Freedom allied attorney Michael DePrimo together with Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys filed suit in federal court against the new law in 2008 on behalf of pro-life advocates, alleging that the law violated their First Amendment freedoms. De Primo is currently litigating the case together with two other allied attorneys, Philip Moran and Mark Rienzi. Rienzi, professor of constitutional law at Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law, is now lead counsel alongside attorneys with the Washington, D.C. firm Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale & Dorr, LLP.

CURRENT STATUS AS OF 6/26/14

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 26, 2014 that the law is unconstitutional.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Whether the government can create censorship zones where the First Amendment does not apply in order to silence a particular viewpoint.

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ABOUT Alliance Defending Freedom

Alliance Defending Freedom is an alliance-building, non-profit legal organization that advocates for the right of people to freely live out their faith.

ABOUT Mark L. Rienzi

Mark L. Rienzi is an Alliance Defending Freedom allied attorney and associate professor at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. Rienzi teaches constitutional law, religious liberty, torts, and evidence. He was voted Teacher of the Year for 2011 and 2012 by the Law School’s Student Bar Association. Rienzi’s litigation and research interests focus on the First and Fourteenth Amendments, with an emphasis on free speech and the free exercise of religion. Rienzi is a widely sought after speaker on constitutional issues, particularly concerning abortion and the First Amendment. Rienzi has served as counsel in the Supreme Court and Appellate Practice Group at Wilmer Hale LLP. Prior to joining Wilmer Hale, he served as law clerk to the Hon. Stephen F. Williams, senior circuit judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Professor Rienzi was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School and B.A. from Princeton University, both with honors.

ABOUT Michael DePrimo

Michael DePrimo is an Alliance Defending Freedom allied attorney who has argued numerous cases before federal courts of appeal and state supreme courts on behalf of individuals whose constitutional rights have been violated by government officials. He is licensed to practice law in the states of Connecticut, Mississippi, and Virginia. In addition, he is admitted to most federal courts of appeal and the United States Supreme Court. He received his law degree from Regent University School of Law in 1989.

ABOUT Steven H. Aden

Steven H. Aden serves as senior counsel with the Alliance Defending Freedom in its Washington, D.C., office, where he heads efforts to defend the sanctity of human life. Aden joined Alliance Defending Freedom in 2008 and is admitted to the bars of the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Hawaii (inactive). He is also a member of the bars of the U.S. Supreme Court and numerous federal circuit and district courts. He has practiced law since 1990 and earned his J.D. with honors from Georgetown University Law Center.

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