



FACT SHEET

Reed v. Town of Gilbert

ABOUT THE CASE

Alliance Defending Freedom represents Pastor Clyde Reed and Good News Community Church, a small congregation located in Gilbert, Ariz. The church uses small, temporary signs to invite and direct the community to its services. The town of Gilbert's sign code imposes strict limits on the size, location, number, and duration of the church's signs. It does not impose the same restrictions on political, ideological, and homeowners' association signs. In July 2014, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review the case. Its ruling could have a broad impact on other speech cases since the lawsuit involves the very essence of free speech: the ability of Americans to invite others to hear a message and participate in it.

STATUS AS OF 2015-06-18

ADF Senior Counsel David Cortman presented oral arguments on behalf of Good News Community Church at the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 12, 2015. ADF Senior Legal Counsel Jeremy Tedesco served as co-counsel in the case. The high court issued its ruling on June 18, 2015.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- Whether the government can engage in speech discrimination just because government officials think their motives are well-intended.
- Whether the government can target one form of speech with severe restrictions while allowing more speech for others in similar circumstances.
- Whether the government can unlawfully restrict one form of speech based on the indefensible argument that it is less valuable than another form of speech.

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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 David Cortman

David A. Cortman serves as senior counsel and vice president of litigation with ADF. Cortman heads all direct litigation efforts to protect religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and marriage and the family. He has been practicing constitutional law for nearly 20 years and has successfully litigated nearly 200 cases at every level, including recent victories at the U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts of appeal. He is admitted to the bar in Georgia, Florida, Arizona, and the District of Columbia. Cortman obtained his J.D. magna cum laude from Regent University School of Law.

ABOUT Jeremy Tedesco

Jeremy Tedesco serves as senior legal counsel for ADF, where he is director of the Freedom of Conscience Initiative. He specializes in protecting the freedom of conscience of individuals being unjustly forced to compromise their beliefs or else face heavy fines and punishment. He earned his J.D. from the Regent University School of Law in 2004. Tedesco is admitted to the state bar of Arizona; the Supreme and District Court of Arizona; the District Court of Colorado; the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th Circuits; and the U.S. Supreme Court.