



Media Guide





Who We Are

Alliance Defending Freedom is an alliance-building, non-profit legal organization committed to protecting religious freedom, free speech, parental rights, and the sanctity of life.

Recognizing the need for a strong, coordinated legal defense against growing attacks on religious freedom, more than 30 prominent Christian leaders launched ADF in 1994. Since that time, this unique legal organization has brought together thousands of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations that work tirelessly to advocate for the right of people to freely live out their faith in America and around the world.

A Leader in Freedom

A WINNING RECORD

Alliance Defending Freedom court victories have safeguarded the God-given, constitutionally protected right to religious freedom for thousands of Christians. Students, parents, business owners, employees, pastors, and community members who were previously censored or punished are now free to live out their faith.



80%

ADF has won nearly 80 percent of all its cases.



61

ADF has played various roles in 61 victories at the U.S. Supreme Court and hundreds more in the lower courts.

ADF Leadership

Michael P. Farris is president and CEO of Alliance Defending Freedom. As the second CEO of ADF, he brings to the role a diverse background as an effective litigator, educator, public advocate, and communicator, and is widely recognized for his successful work on both the national and international stage.

Farris was founding president of both the Home School Legal Defense Association (1983) and Patrick Henry College (2000) and continues to serve as chairman of the board of HSLDA and chancellor emeritus of PHC.



Michael Farris
President & CEO

He graduated from Western Washington State College *magna cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in political science, followed by a Juris Doctor from Gonzaga University (with honors).

He also earned an LL.M. in public international law (with honors) from the University of London.

Farris has specialized in constitutional appellate litigation. In that capacity, he has argued before the appellate courts of 13 states, eight federal circuit courts of appeal, and the U.S. Supreme Court, where in 2018 he successfully argued *NIFLA v. Becerra*, resulting in a free speech victory for California's pro-life pregnancy centers.

Farris has testified many times before both the House and Senate. He was an executive committee member of the Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion that successfully lobbied Congress for the passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993. He also has substantial experience in international religious freedom advocacy.

Farris is the author of over 15 books, as well as law review and other scholarly and popular articles. He and his wife, Vickie, have 10 children and many grandchildren.



Trusted Source

The nation's leading media outlets rely on Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys for their legal expertise on First Amendment freedoms.

NBC News

FOX News

ABC News

CBS News

PBS News Hour

CNN

Associated Press

National Public Radio

Wall Street Journal

New York Times

USA Today

Los Angeles Times

Huffington Post

Washington Post

World Magazine

Reuters

VICE News

Time Magazine



The New York Times

THE
HUFFINGTON
POST



WALL STREET JOURNAL

What Others Are Saying

"If there is a single organization most responsible for the surge in student-speech cases, it may be [ADF], an Arizona-based network of Christian lawyers. Since 1994 the ADF has filed hundreds of cases advocating religious speech in the schools and a spokesman claims that it is 'the driving force on this issue in the courts today.'"

— **TIME magazine**

"Alliance Defending Freedom is a powerhouse of conservative Christian advocacy that has litigated some of the biggest sociological issues of the last two decades." — **VICE News**

"Christian group becomes force in major legal battles."
— **The Washington Post**

"The 800-pound gorilla of the Christian Right."
— **Think Progress**

"[Alliance Defending Freedom is] 'smart and savvy' [and has] 'stormed onto the legal scene to take on the courts.... ADF and its allies are changing the dynamics in the battle over faith and culture.'"
— **National Public Radio**

"ADF is the big gorilla in religious liberty litigation."
— **Hugh Hewitt, Salem Radio Network**

"ADF boasts an impressive media presence and sponsors a series of legal training programs for law students and seasoned attorneys alike."
— **Daniel Bennett, Religion & Politics**



Litigating Cases

Alliance Defending Freedom employs a professional team of skilled constitutional attorneys who work closely with more than 3,000 allied attorneys to advance religious freedom. The generosity of thousands of Ministry Friends allows ADF to provide legal assistance free of charge and to select strategic cases that set necessary legal precedents.



MORE THAN
70
IN-HOUSE
ATTORNEYS



NEARLY
150
CURRENT
CASES



MORE THAN
3,000
YEARLY REQUESTS
FOR LEGAL HELP

Funding Allies

Since 1994, Alliance Defending Freedom has provided thousands of allies with critical funding for precedent-setting victories on behalf of religious liberty, the sanctity of life, and marriage and family. Many of these victories would not have been possible without the necessary funding to sustain a quality, long-term legal defense.



MORE THAN
3,400
GRANTS
PROVIDED



MORE THAN
\$53M
AWARDED TO FUND
PROJECTS & CASES



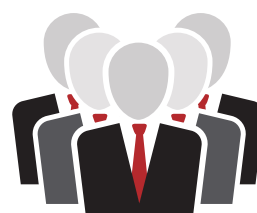
BUILDING STRATEGIC Partnerships

Alliance Defending Freedom has built an alliance of more than 3,700 attorneys and 1,000 allied organizations worldwide – including family policy councils, Christian ministries, student campus organizations, and others – to defend religious liberty, marriage and the family, and the sanctity of life.

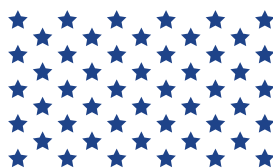
By forging strong alliances with like-minded attorneys and organizations, ADF is able to coordinate strategic efforts for important cases and set an overarching strategy for victory in these areas.



MORE THAN
1,000
ALLIED
ORGANIZATIONS



MORE THAN
3,700
ALLIED
ATTORNEYS



ALLIED ATTORNEYS
IN ALL
50
STATES, PLUS
WASHINGTON D.C. AND
PUERTO RICO



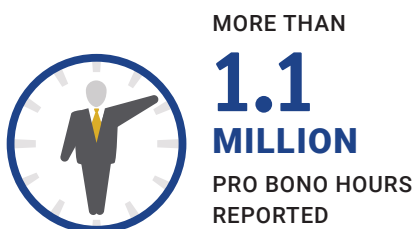
ALLIED ATTORNEYS
IN NEARLY
50
COUNTRIES



Training

FUTURE LEGAL LEADERS

The Alliance Defending Freedom Academy provides Christian attorneys with training from the nation's top litigators and constitutional law experts on how to effectively advocate for religious freedom. In return, these allied attorneys donate hundreds of dedicated pro bono hours to protect and preserve religious liberty in their local communities.



The Next Generation

BLACKSTONE LEGAL FELLOWSHIP

Since 2000, Alliance Defending Freedom has trained more than 2,400 law students from more than 156 U.S. and 71 international law schools through the Blackstone Legal Fellowship. Blackstone is a leadership development program that brings together exceptional Christian law students and prepares them for careers marked by integrity, excellence, and leadership.

This nine-week summer program begins with two weeks of seminars on topics such as legal philosophy, constitutional law, and practicing the Christian faith within the legal profession. Interns then spend six weeks engaged in legal internships across the world, working with non-profits, governmental entities, and boutique law firms, among others. Blackstone Legal Fellowship concludes with a final week focused on career development and cultural engagement.



ADFmedia.org is a valuable resource for journalists. Each Alliance Defending Freedom case or issue area includes a resource page with legal documents, case summaries, news releases, fact sheets, and even sound bites and video clips. These resources are designed to provide the answers and content necessary to build your story and meet your deadline.

HEADLINES



Christian colleges fight lawsuit designed to strip their students of financial aid

EUGENE, Ore. – Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys representing three Christian post-secondary schools asked a federal district court Friday to allow them to intervene against a lawsuit that seeks to strip all students at private religious colleges of federal financial aid unless their schools renounce core religious beliefs. The suit, filed by a recently formed LGBT activist group on behalf of some current and former students, intends to prevent any students from using tuition grants, student loans, and any other federal financial assistance at schools that operate according to Christian beliefs on sexuality. [Read More >>](#)



US Supreme Court issues fifth rejection of CA's COVID-19 restrictions on religion

ADF Senior Counsel and Vice President of U.S. Litigation David Cortman: "With this fifth rejection of California's COVID-19 restrictions on religious exercise, the Supreme Court has made abundantly clear that the government has a duty to respect the First Amendment in this context and many others. As the court explained, the government can't single out religious activities for harsher treatment than non-religious ones.... The Supreme Court came to the right and logical conclusion in condemning state restrictions that demonstrate this kind of unconstitutional hostility to religion." [Read More >>](#)



NY photographer challenges state law that threatens steep fines, jail time for artists

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys representing a photographer and blogger filed suit in federal court Tuesday against New York state and county officials. The lawsuit challenges state laws that force Emilee Carpenter to create photographs and blogs celebrating same-sex weddings if she does so for weddings between one man and one woman. Penalties for violating the law include fines of up to \$100,000, a revoked business license, and up to a year in jail. [Read More >>](#)

COMMENTARY

Greg Chafuen: Why states should protect religion as 'essential' during emergencies (*Daily Wire*, 2021-04-09)

John Bursch: Sixth Circuit free speech ruling stems tide of cancel culture (*Newsweek*, 2021-04-09)

Kristen Waggoner: Kristi Noem, join us and protect women's sports (*Newsweek*, 2021-03-29)

FAITH AND JUSTICE

Faith & Justice Magazine: Offered four times a year, *Faith & Justice* tells uplifting stories of victory and changed lives in which Alliance Defending Freedom and its allies have been privileged to take part.



OTHER RESOURCES

[ADF International](#)

[Alliance Alert](#)

[ADF blog](#)

[Videos](#) for media audiences (Vimeo)

[Videos](#) for general audiences (YouTube)

Featured videos:



America's core values under fire (5:47)

Do Americans have the right to donate privately? (5:16)



ADF INTERNATIONAL

ADF International



ADF International, a global partner of Alliance Defending Freedom, is an alliance-building legal organization that advocates for the right of people to freely live out their faith. With headquarters in Vienna and additional offices located in other centers of legal and political influence, ADF International is at the forefront of defending religious freedom, the sanctity of life, and marriage and family around the world.

ADF International builds alliances and engages in legal advocacy to protect and promote religious freedom throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas. We operate at institutions of strategic international importance, namely: the United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe, Organization of American States, Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Court of Human Rights. Since launching in 2010, the ADF International team has secured 24 victories at the European Court of Human Rights, one of the most influential courts in the world.



ADF Founders

Alliance Defending Freedom was founded by the sacrificial and generous efforts of more than 30 prominent Christian leaders, with six exceptional individuals leading the way. They set the high standards of excellence and responsible stewardship that the organization abides by to this day.



Dr. Bill Bright

Founder, Cru
(Formerly Campus
Crusade for Christ)
(1921-2003)



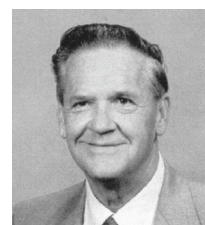
Marlin Maddoux

Former Host,
Point of View
Radio Program
(1933-2004)



Larry Burkett

Co-Founder, Crown
Financial Ministries
(1939-2003)



William Pew

Former Chairman,
Maranatha
Foundation,
businessman
and author
(1922-1997)



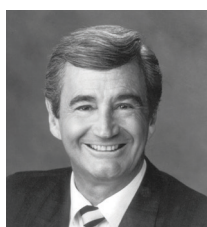
**Dr. James C.
Dobson**

Founder,
Focus on the Family,
Family Talk



Alan Sears

Founding President,
CEO, & General
Counsel
(1994-2017)



**Dr. D. James
Kennedy**

Former Senior
Pastor, Coral Ridge
Presbyterian Church
(1930-2007)



Connect with ADF

ADF MEDIA RELATIONS

To schedule an interview with an Alliance Defending Freedom attorney or allied attorney, please contact the ADF Media Communications Team:

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Fax: (480) 444-0025

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ADF Main Website: ADFlegal.org

ADF Media Website: ADFmedia.org

ADF International Website: ADFinternational.org



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vimeo.com/ADFmedia