

Focus on Religious Freedom

"Freedom of conscience is the core of all freedom." Pope Benedict XVI

Web Designer Petitions Supreme Court to Affirm Religious Freedom

Colorado website designer, Lorie Smith, is appealing a lower-court decision depriving her of the right to conduct her business according to her religious beliefs. "I have clients ranging from individuals to small business owners to nonprofit agencies," Smith said. "I have served and continue to serve all people, including those who identify as LGBT. I simply object to being forced to pour my heart, my imagination and talent into messages that violate my conscience." ⁽¹⁾

"The government shouldn't weaponize the law to force a web designer to speak messages that violate her beliefs. This case involves quintessential free speech and artistic freedom...," said an Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) attorney. ⁽²⁾ The 10th Circuit's ruling "holds that the more unique a product, the more aggressively the government may regulate access to it - thus the less First Amendment protection it has." The lower court's decision "empowers the government to force everyone to speak government-approved messages and subverts our core understandings of the First Amendment." ⁽³⁾

In a similar case involving CO cake artist Jack Phillips, the U.S. Supreme Court scolded Colorado for its "hostility" to Christianity.

"If the Freedom of Speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter." - George Washington

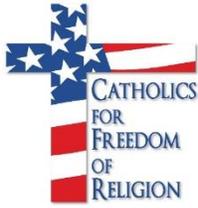
The Importance of Faith to America's Founders: John Adams

Throughout his life, this Founding Father and 2nd President of the United States, exhibited a profound respect for the Bible and references it frequently in his writings. He wrote to fellow Founder Benjamin Rush in 1807, "The Bible contains the most profound Philosophy, the most perfect Morality, and the most refined Policy, that ever was conceived upon the Earth." ⁽⁴⁾ About the newly written Constitution, he wrote, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious People. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." ⁽⁵⁾

The Founders knew a virtuous people would courageously defend the rights endowed by their Creator and restored by the blood of patriots. But a fearful people would readily give up these rights in exchange for a fleeting sense of security.

Princeton Professor Robbie George explains, "People lacking in virtue could be counted on to trade liberty for protection, for financial or personal security, for comfort - for having their problems solved quickly." ⁽⁶⁾

(dailycaller.com, 9/24/21(1); wnd.com, 9/25/21(2)(3); harbingersdaily.com, 9/27/21; adflegal.org, 10/28/19; joshuatcharles.com, 12/11/18(4); constitutionallaw.regent.edu (5)(6); lawliberty.org)



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