



Year-End 2019

MINISTRY
REPORT

ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM

**“Apart from Christ,
we can do nothing.”**

JOHN 15:5

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ADF AT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT



ADF Client Tom Rost and wife Nancy after oral arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court

By God's grace, the year 2019 saw the dedicated support and tireless labor of many come to fruition—resulting in landmark opportunities to advocate for freedom.

ADF had another busy year at the U.S. Supreme Court with multiple cert petitions, one oral argument, and several cases pending for review. It is a great honor, as well as a challenge, to argue for religious freedom, life, and marriage and family at the highest court in the nation, and we count it our privilege to represent clients who are faithful above all else to God's call on their lives and living out their faith in their businesses. Here is a brief summary of the cases ADF has been involved in at the U.S. Supreme Court over the past year:

R.G. & G.R. HARRIS FUNERAL HOMES V. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

On October 8, ADF Vice President of Appellate Advocacy and Senior Counsel John Bursch presented oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court on

behalf of Harris Funeral Homes, asking the Court to affirm that the word "sex" in Title VII law refers to one's biological sex – not transgender status.

Tom Rost's fifth-generation, family-owned business has served grieving families in Michigan for over 100 years. The funeral home maintains professional codes of dress and conduct to ensure that grieving families can focus on healing and not on the funeral home or its employees. The funeral home requires adherence to a sex-specific dress code consistent with industry standards—in accord with federal law.

Nearly six years after being hired, a male funeral director announced a plan to begin presenting and dressing as a woman at work while interacting with grieving families. Tom cares deeply for all his employees, but after prayerfully considering the best interests of the requesting employee, other employees, and the grieving families he serves, Tom decided he could not agree to this plan.

According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) own compliance manual, small businesses are allowed to differentiate between men and women in their dress codes. Even so, the EEOC sued Tom for his decision and sought to use this dispute as a test case to redefine the word "sex" in federal employment law to include "transgender status."

The Supreme Court's ruling on this case will have far-reaching implications. Changing "sex discrimination" to include "transgender-status discrimination" could force women to share the playing field in sports with biological males, undermining 50 years of advancement for women. This is already happening in the case of Selina Soule (featured later in this report) and other female high school athletes in Connecticut who were denied a fair chance at victory in female sports by being forced to race against boys who identify as girls.

It could also jeopardize women's privacy by forcing organizations to open women's shelters, locker rooms, restrooms, and showers to men who identify as women. This is what could have happened to Downtown Hope Center in Anchorage, Alaska; another case we will feature later in this report.

The Supreme Court's decision in *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission* will likely be released in spring or summer 2020.

ARLENE'S FLOWERS INC. V. STATE OF WASHINGTON | ARLENE'S FLOWERS V. INGERSOLL

On September 10, floral artist Barronelle Stutzman appealed again to the U.S. Supreme Court to take her case after the Washington Supreme Court reinstated its prior ruling that threatens to bankrupt her.

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As you may recall, the Washington Attorney General and the ACLU sued Barronelle in her business and personal capacities. The U.S. Supreme Court sent Barronelle's case back to the state to reconsider its ruling against her in light of the ADF victory in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* case involving Colorado cake artist Jack Phillips.

Unfortunately, Washington's highest court did little to revise its stance, reciting word for word much of the first decision it issued against Barronelle, while ignoring the state attorney general's hostility toward Barronelle and her sincerely held religious beliefs regarding marriage. The court upheld a ruling that requires Barronelle to create custom wedding arrangements celebrating same-sex marriage.

In *Masterpiece*, the U.S. Supreme Court made it clear that government hostility toward people of faith has no place in our society. Nonetheless, the State of Washington wrongly interpreted the ruling as applying only to adjudicatory bodies and not members of the executive branch like the attorney general—the state's highest legal officer.

The attorney general's hostility toward Barronelle was demonstrated by the different way he treated her compared to other business owners. For example, the state chose not to investigate or sue a coffee shop owner who profanely berated and expelled Christian customers because of their faith. Yet it brought the full power of the state down on Barronelle.

The Washington Supreme Court's ruling gives the U.S. Supreme Court an opportunity to resolve the questions left unanswered by the *Masterpiece* case and reaffirm that the First Amendment protects the freedom of Americans to live out different views about marriage. In addition, the recent victory in the



ADF Client Barronelle Stutzman

ADF case *Telescope Media Group v. Lucero* (mentioned later in this report) was vital to reinforcing Barronelle's claims.

The U.S. Supreme Court received numerous friend-of-the-court briefs in support of Barronelle's freedom to decline to create artistic expression and participate in events with which she disagrees. The briefs filed in Barronelle's case include support from 17 states, 43 members of Congress, and a variety of legal experts and religious groups.

Please continue to pray for Barronelle as she courageously risks her livelihood to stand for her faith before the U.S. Supreme Court. Pray that the Court would affirm the constitutional freedoms so vital to civil discourse and religious freedom in our nation so that all may freely live out their faith.

THOMAS MORE LAW CENTER V. BECERRA

ADF attorneys have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to take up the case of a Michigan non-profit organization, Thomas More Law Center, after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that it—and every other charity that fundraises in California—must disclose the names and addresses of major donors to the California Attorney General on an annual basis.

Thomas More Law Center defends and promotes religious freedom, moral and family values, and the sanctity of human life. Roughly five percent of its supporters are California residents, and it has operated as a charity in good standing with the California Attorney General for many years. However, in March 2012, the attorney general's office began to harass the Law Center and demand the names and addresses of its major supporters even though the

Law Center's supporters, clients, and employees have faced intimidation, death threats, hate mail, boycotts, and even an assassination attempt from ideological opponents. In addition, California has no regulatory need for requesting the information, and the California attorney general's office has a history of posting supporter's information publicly online and offering no protection against employees, contractors, or summer interns downloading, e-mailing, or printing supporters' names and addresses and then disclosing them publicly.

We should receive word on whether or not the Supreme Court grants review in this case, and in Barronelle's case, after the first of the year. **A**

STRATEGIC RELATIONS AND TRAINING

2019 BLACKSTONE LEGAL FELLOWSHIP

In June, the 2019 Blackstone Legal Fellowship commenced, comprised of 160 top quality students selected from a pool of more than 400 law students who applied to participate this year. What started as a disparate group became one class, unified by their faith and desire to use their God-given talents to change the world for Christ. In the words of one of this year's Fellows:

You may never know, this side of heaven, the culture-shifting impact you have made for the Kingdom. The Blackstone Fellowship was incredibly enriching in every way. Blackstone Fellows who have gone before me told me that this experience would be life changing. I now understand why. God used Blackstone in my life to stir up boldness and courage for Him. I feel privileged to be a Christ-follower and law student who has now been equipped with the tools to engage with and impact the culture.

After spending two weeks training with our faculty and staff in Washington, D.C., the class spread throughout the country and across four continents to complete their Phase II internships. At the end of the summer, interns returned for a final set of seminars and training focused on career development and engagement. The curriculum included practical career advice and enabled interns to develop a clearer vision of their professional calling. Faculty included partners from prestigious law firms, high-ranking public officials, corporate leaders, and former judicial law clerks. After Phase III, the interns returned to law school equipped with deeper knowledge, stronger convictions, and access to a vast professional network that will continue to grow throughout their careers.

TWENTY YEARS OF BLACKSTONE LEGAL FELLOWSHIP

This year marked the 20th summer of the Blackstone Legal Fellowship.

On June 22, to celebrate this milestone, 500 guests from around the world joined us in Washington, D.C., to give thanks for God's faithfulness and reflect on what the Lord has accomplished through the Blackstone program. Attendees included representatives from every Blackstone class as well as influential leaders from large law firms, the federal government, and non-profit allies who have played a pivotal role in the Fellowship's ongoing success. Several members of the federal judiciary who have hired Blackstone Fellows as clerks also attended.

In 2000, just 24 students gathered together to commence the first-ever Blackstone class. Since that time, nearly 2,300 students have graduated from the program, with the vast majority becoming Fellows and partnering with ADF to defend religious freedom in their professional careers. These students have come from 227 law schools around the world, and there are now hundreds of Fellows working in prominent law firms, state and federal government

offices, non-profit advocacy organizations, and higher education. Blackstone Fellows are now securing important judicial clerkship positions at a higher rate than the graduates of virtually every top law school in the country. And they have published nearly 800 articles in law journals and publications.

The Blackstone Legal Fellowship continues to have a profound influence on the personal and professional futures of the brightest young men and women our law schools have to offer. We are looking forward to what the Lord will do with this program over the next twenty years.

2019 ARETÉ ACADEMY

In August, 79 new Delegates participated in the 2019 U.S. Areté Academy session. The week stirred the hearts and minds of these young leaders for religious liberty, conscience rights, life, and marriage and family. The Delegates were inspired to be bold



Joni Eareckson Tada with John Stonestreet at the 2019 ADF Summit on Religious Liberty

and courageous in living out their faith, to stand up for truth on their campuses and in their workplaces, and to pursue God's calling in their lives with excellence and virtue. They also know they are not alone—that they have a community and an alliance with ADF. Knowing that they are part of the ADF Alliance emboldens them to engage on ADF's core issues in their spheres of influence.

Our new sessions and faculty took the curriculum to the next level, engaging even deeper on key issues and providing practical ways to engage their communities. Thanks to a talented and diverse faculty who poured into the lives of these budding leaders, the Delegates were equipped to think about pressing cultural issues

with a biblical worldview while they pursue careers in law, government, public policy, and business.

In the words of one of this year's attendees:

This was one of the pivotal moments in my life. I have attended many conferences where the focus was on conservatism, and Christianity was a second thought. This was the first conference that I have been to where Christianity was the front and center focus. It was refreshing for both my mind and soul, and I will treasure the memories that I made at Areté for the rest of my life. What I learned at Areté, I have already begun to use, and I will use for the rest of my life.

ADF continues to develop the Areté Academy model to offer industry-tailored trainings and region-specific trainings to students and young professionals around the world. This year, ADF hosted a pre-law school track for 21 Delegates entering law school in the United States and a public policy track for 26 Delegates working in the government and public policy arenas. Additionally, ADF hosted 50 Delegates in Vienna, Austria, for Areté-Europe, as well as 40 Delegates in Bangkok, Thailand, for Areté-Asia. We are excited about the future of these bright young men and women as they use their talents to impact all aspects of society for God's Kingdom.

2019 ADF SUMMIT ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

In July, we hosted the fourth annual ADF Summit on Religious Liberty. The Summit continues to be a strong testament of God's faithfulness, as well as the convening power of ADF.

This year we welcomed a remarkable group of leaders in law, government, public policy, media, business, education, and ministry to collaborate on legal and cultural strategies to protect religious liberty across the globe. We added three new tracks this year, bringing the total to ten unique tracks for nearly 300 attendees – our biggest Summit yet. The new tracks were for corporate CEOs, philanthropic foundations, and Christian education leaders.

The 2019 Summit also included our strongest faculty ever, highlighted by a closing banquet presentation from Joni Eareckson Tada and a keynote address from Archbishop Charles Chaput.

In his remarks, Archbishop Chaput said of ADF:

Courage, like cowardice, is infectious, and very few people can match the courage and character

that permeate the entire ADF team ... These are extraordinary persons doing extraordinary work, and I count it a privilege to admire them.

The impact of the event, and the opportunity to meet and interact with others, has already borne much fruit, including collaboration from 30 attendees on amicus briefs in support of our clients Tom and Nancy Rost (who attended Summit) in the U.S. Supreme Court case, *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*, mentioned earlier in this report.

ADF AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The ADF Ambassador Program is a community of Ministry Friends who contribute to our efforts to preserve our most fundamental liberties. They do this through engaging their local communities by raising awareness of ADF and our work in their spheres of influence.

Growing this program has been a priority for ADF, prompting the launch of a new recruiting initiative called the Me+3 campaign late last year. Earlier this year, we also launched a first-class community website that enables Ambassadors to effectively engage with ADF.

By God's grace, these new initiatives are producing remarkable growth, with over 100 new Ambassadors this year. This growth in the Ambassador program is allowing us to think bigger about how we can leverage this highly motivated community. Recognizing the vital importance of prayer in all we do at ADF, we have expanded a focused prayer initiative among the Ambassadors. This initiative will allow us to create greater intentionality toward mobilizing large groups of allies to cover our work in prayer every step of the way as we seek to defend and protect the right of people to freely live out their faith. **A**

CENTER FOR CONSCIENCE INITIATIVES



ADF Clients Carl and Angel Larsen

Over the past year, ADF has secured several major victories for the rights of conscience for creative professionals and ministries. We have seen major fruit from our pre-enforcement challenge legal strategy which tries to stop particular applications of the law before the government punishes individuals who simply want to speak and live consistent with their faith in their businesses or ministries.

TELESCOPE MEDIA GROUP V. LUCERO

On August 23, a three-judge panel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ruled 2-1 in favor of Telescope Media Group, holding that a lower court should not have dismissed filmmakers Carl and Angel Larsen's lawsuit challenging a Minnesota state law that unconstitutionally controls the content of their films.

Carl and Angel are professional storytellers. From day one, they have sought to honor God with their storytelling and video production talents. This means that while they serve everyone, they cannot promote every message through their films.

The Larsens desire to create marriage films consistent with their religious beliefs. But state officials say that if they create films telling marriage stories that honor their beliefs, they will be forced to tell stories about marriage that violate those beliefs, including films celebrating same-sex marriage, under threat of steep fines and even jail time. Carl and Angel filed a challenge against the law, but the lower court dismissed it.

ADF appealed on their behalf to the Eighth Circuit. Nearly a year after ADF Senior Counsel Jeremy Tedesco argued the case before the federal appellate court, the court ruled decisively in favor of Carl and Angel's free speech rights. The court affirmed that films are protected speech and that *"the First Amendment allows [filmmakers] to choose when to speak and what to say."* It also reinstated their lawsuit and ordered the lower court to reconsider whether the Larsens are entitled to a preliminary injunction barring enforcement of the law against them.

The court also emphasized how this is not just a win for Carl and Angel, but for everyone's free speech rights, writing:

Indeed, if Minnesota were correct, there is no reason it would have to stop with the Larsens. In theory, it could use the MHRA to require a Muslim tattoo artist to inscribe 'My religion is the only true religion' on the body of a Christian if he or she would do the same for a fellow Muslim, or it could demand that an atheist musician perform at an evangelical church service. In fact, if Minnesota were to do what other jurisdictions have done and declare political affiliation or ideology to be a protected characteristic, then it could force a Democratic speechwriter to provide the same services to a Republican, or it could require a professional entertainer to perform at rallies for both the Republican and Democratic candidates for the same office.

The significance of this victory is manifold. First of all, this is the first federal appellate court to rule on the free speech question left open by *Masterpiece Cakeshop*: whether the state has the power to force creative professionals to express messages that violate their beliefs. If you remember, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Jack Phillips because of Colorado's impermissible religious targeting and did not reach the free speech question. Secondly, it is a strong free speech precedent

that should impact other courts deciding similar cases. And, finally, it creates a court split that greatly increases the chance of a conscience case like the Larsens' going before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Thankfully, the Eighth Circuit's strong decision affirming Carl and Angel's First Amendment freedom to control their speech is already having wide-reaching impact on many other cases. ADF has cited this federal decision to bolster several other conscience cases, including those involving Brush & Nib Studio (see below), Hands On Originals, and Arlene's Flowers, to name just a few. We praise God for this victory, which not only benefits the Larsens but also has the potential to protect the freedom of all creative professionals to express messages in accordance with their consciences.

BRUSH & NIB STUDIO V. CITY OF PHOENIX

On September 16, in another God-given victory, the Arizona Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that the city of Phoenix cannot punish artists Joanna Duka and Breanna Koski of Brush & Nib Studio if they decline to create custom wedding invitations expressing messages that conflict

with their core beliefs. Such coercion, the court stated, would violate the constitutional principle that “an individual has autonomy over his or her speech and thus may not be forced to speak a message he or she does not wish to say.”

In its decision, the court wrote:

The rights of free speech and free exercise, so precious to this nation since its founding, are not limited to soft murmurings behind the doors of a person’s home or church, or private conversations with like-minded friends and family. These guarantees protect the right of every American to express their beliefs in public. This includes the right to create and sell words, paintings, and art that express a person’s sincere religious beliefs.

The court’s ruling removes the threat facing Joanna and Breanna of up to six months of jail time, \$2,500 in fines, and three years of probation for each day the city would find them in violation of the law. The court determined that applying the law to force Joanna and Breanna to express messages contrary to their faith violates core free-speech and free-exercise protections.

As ADF Senior Counsel Jonathan Scruggs explained to the court,

These women of deep religious faith gladly serve everyone, including those in the LGBT community; their faith simply prevents them from expressing certain messages for anyone. So this case is not about whether businesses can decline to serve an entire class of people. It is about whether artists can freely choose which messages their own art conveys.

The court’s decision is another important step toward preserving the freedom of all creative professionals to freely express their faith in their artistic endeavors.



ADF Clients Joanna Duka and Breanna Koski with ADF Senior Counsel Jonathan Scruggs

**THE DOWNTOWN SOUP KITCHEN
DBA DOWNTOWN HOPE CENTER V.
MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**

The Downtown Hope Center in Anchorage, Alaska, faced attack on multiple fronts after it paid for an inebriated and injured biological male to be transported to a local hospital for treatment. Hope Center chose to do this rather than admitting him into its women’s shelter to sleep mere feet from women, many of whom had suffered rape, sex-trafficking, or other abuse.

The man, who self-identifies as a woman, filed a complaint with the Anchorage Equal Rights Commission claiming that Hope Center violated a city ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity. He then sued Hope Center in state court. Rather than wait for this process to play out, ADF went on the offensive and filed a pre-enforcement suit on Hope Center’s behalf in federal court, asking for a preliminary injunction to halt the enforcement of the city ordinance.

In a resounding victory, the federal court granted ADF’s request and issued a preliminary injunction, effectively stopping the city from enforcing its law against Hope Center. Once the city learned of the federal court’s decision, it voluntarily dismissed the Commission’s complaint and agreed to a make the court’s initial ruling permanent. ADF attorneys also informed the state court of the federal decision, which resulted in dismissal of that lawsuit as well. We also recently finalized settlement terms, which will end the federal lawsuit and permanently protect the Hope Center.

We praise God for this decisive victory protecting the ability of the Downtown Hope Center to show the love of Christ while ministering to the needs of the women in its community, including providing a safe place for their emotional and spiritual healing.

LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION V. HANDS ON ORIGINALS

On August 23, ADF Senior Counsel Jim Campbell presented oral arguments before the Kentucky Supreme Court on behalf of Hands On Originals, the promotional printing business owned by ADF client Blaine Adamson. Blaine was sued for declining a request to create t-shirts promoting a gay pride festival because he could not in good conscience print a message that violated his faith. The press conference following the oral argument attracted significant media attention, giving ADF an opportunity to impact the public dialogue surrounding Blaine's case and show that a win for Blaine would be a win for the free speech rights of all Americans.

On October 31, the Kentucky Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision for Hands On Originals. The court concluded that the LGBT group that sued Blaine and his business did not have the legal right to do so. In a concurring opinion, Justice David Buckingham said that *"Hands On was in good faith objecting to the message it was being asked to disseminate"*—it was not discriminating against any person. He also explained, quoting what the U.S. Supreme Court wrote last year in *Janus v. AFSCME*, that *"[w]hen speech is compelled..., individuals are coerced into betraying their convictions. Forcing free and independent individuals to endorse ideas they find objectionable is always demeaning...."* No member of the court disagreed with what Buckingham wrote.

SCHWARTZ V. CITY OF NEW YORK

June 19, ADF attorneys representing an Orthodox Jewish psychotherapist, Dr. Dovid Schwartz, asked a federal district court in Brooklyn to halt enforcement of New York City's new ordinance that violates Schwartz's freedom of speech and infringes on his religious faith and that of his patients.

As stated by ADF Senior Counsel, Roger Brooks,

All New Yorkers and all Americans deserve the right to private conversations, free from government control. By trying to regulate and censor private sessions between an adult and his counselor, New York City directly violated freedom of speech—a core right that the First Amendment protects. The city council appears to have realized its error and correctly concluded that this censorship is unconstitutional. The city council's vote was the right thing to do, and it is an important win for Dr. Schwartz, his patients, and all New Yorkers.

In mid-September, the New York City Council—publicly explaining their fear that the court would rule for Dr. Schwartz and set what the Council leaders considered a "bad" precedent—repealed the ordinance, thanks in part to the ADF Supreme Court victory in *NIFLA v. Becerra* dealing with compelled speech. We are now waiting on the U.S. District Court to weigh in on the matter. **A**

Right: ADF Client Dr. David Schwartz



CENTER FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM



ADF Client Nathan Apodaca

The Center for Academic Freedom (CAF) saw a busy year as our team continues to protect free speech and freedom of association on campus. Here are just a few highlights of our case work over the past 12 months:

APODACA (STUDENTS FOR LIFE) V. WHITE (CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

On August 13, a federal district court struck down a California State University-San Marcos practice of “back room deliberations,” which funded pro-abortion and other favored views while preventing a Students for Life chapter and its president, Nathan Apodaca, from accessing student funding. ADF-CAF filed a federal lawsuit in 2017 on Nathan’s behalf to challenge the university’s discriminatory funding policies.

CSU San Marcos has more than 100 recognized student groups. In the 2016-2017 academic year, the Gender Equity Center and the LGBTQA Pride Center received a combined \$296,498 for speech and expressive activities compared to only \$38,629 allocated for the more than 100 other groups combined. During the same year, Students for Life applied for a \$500 “Leadership Funding” grant to host a pro-life speaker to provide an alternative view. Even though Nathan and other Students for Life members paid the same mandatory student activity fees that all students pay, he and his pro-life peers were denied equal access to that funding.

After the court struck down the policy, the parties participated in a court-ordered settlement conference pursuant to which the parties agreed to resolve all remaining issues as follows: (1) CSUSM agreed to adopt viewpoint neutral policies governing the allocation of student fees; (2) the Gender Equity Center and LGBTQA

Pride Center will no longer be funded by student fees; (3) the Chancellor of California State University will issue a policy directive to all 23 of its campuses throughout California mandating that all campuses revise their student allocation procedures to adopt viewpoint neutral criteria; and (4) CSUSM will pay \$240,000 in attorneys’ fees and costs.

This victory is significant because California State University is the largest university system in the nation, consisting of more than 500,000 students, attending 23 campuses, which collect more than \$50 million in student fees annually.

YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM V. UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The University of Florida agreed to make policy changes to settle a lawsuit that ADF-CAF attorneys filed last December on behalf of a Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) chapter after the university failed to distribute

money collected from mandatory student fees to student organizations in a fair, viewpoint-neutral manner.

In response to the students’ lawsuit, the university eliminated policies that were used to deny funding to the non-partisan YAF chapter and replaced them with more viewpoint-neutral policies. In light of the changes, YAF voluntarily dismissed its lawsuit on July 31.

Under the previous policy, the university required students to pay a mandatory activity and service fee used to fund student organizations’ expression, but the school allowed the student government to deny YAF and other groups equal access to those funds. The university denied YAF funding to bring in conservative speakers even though it granted funding to other organizations to bring in far-left speakers.

The university’s settlement fee will include payment to YAF in damages for the denial of their funding requests for speakers’ fees. The amount will also reimburse the

student fees paid by two YAF members under the old policy and cover costs and attorneys' fees.

VLAMING V. WEST POINT SCHOOL BOARD

On September 27, ADF-CAF attorneys filed suit against the West Point (VA) School Board in state court on behalf of a French teacher, Peter Vlaming, who was fired from his job at West Point High School in Williamsburg, Virginia. The reason? Peter declined to refer to a female student as a male, but instead respectfully chose to avoid the use of pronouns altogether in order to avoid offense.

The superintendent of West Point Schools ordered Peter, who had taught in the district for seven years and was well liked by students, to use a student's preferred pronouns. Although Peter was willing to use—and consistently did use—the student's preferred name instead of her given name, and attempted to avoid the use of any pronouns in order to accommodate the student, he was nonetheless directed to cease "avoiding the use of male pronouns" to refer to the female student, even when the student wasn't present. The board fired Peter when he stated he could not in good conscience comply.

"Peter went out of his way to accommodate this student as he does all his students; his school fired him because he wouldn't contradict his core beliefs," said ADF Legal Counsel Caleb Dalton. *"The school board didn't care how well Peter treated this student. It was on a crusade to compel conformity."*

Please be in prayer for Peter and the ADF-CAF legal team as this case moves forward.



ADF Client Dr. Allan Josephson with ADF Senior Counsel Travis Barham

JOSEPHSON V. BENDAPUDI

In late March, ADF-CAF filed a lawsuit on behalf of Dr. Allan Josephson against officials at the University of Louisville. Dr. Josephson was the Chief of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Psychology at the university for almost fifteen years and has practiced and taught for more than 35 years. Sadly, he was demoted, harassed, and then later effectively fired by the university for expressing the view that medical professionals should seek to understand and treat the psychological issues that often cause

childhood gender dysphoria rather than pursuing more radical and aggressive treatments. He added that these children should receive help in making them comfortable with their biological sex.

After his remarks, a few of his colleagues objected to Dr. Josephson's opinions and complained to university officials. Within seven weeks, the university forced Dr. Josephson to resign from his role as Division Chief. For the next year, university officials subjected him to a hostile, humiliating work environment, treating him as a junior faculty member. And in February 2019,

the university announced that it would not renew his contract, a highly unusual action that resulted in him being effectively terminated on June 30th. Please pray for Dr. Josephson as this case moves forward.

OTHER CAF HIGHLIGHTS

Advancing Free Speech and Academic Freedom at the Federal and State Level

On March 15, ADF attorneys Zack Pruitt and Greg Baylor participated in an invitation-only White House

meeting with President Trump's staff to discuss an executive order related to campus free speech. The goal of the executive order under discussion was to essentially forbid federal agencies from providing federal research grants to any private or public colleges that maintain speech policies that violate the First Amendment-protected rights of their students. At the meeting, CAF advocated for the order to exempt private colleges and universities because the First Amendment protects the rights of such institutions, in particular religious ones, to maintain policies requiring students to speak and act in accordance with the beliefs of the institution.

Only six days later, on March 21, President Trump signed an executive order that declared:

It is the policy of the Federal Government to . . . encourage institutions to foster environments that promote open, intellectually engaging, and diverse debate, including through compliance with the First Amendment for public institutions and compliance with stated institutional policies regarding freedom of speech for private institutions . . .

Four ADF-CAF clients Ellen Wittman, Bernadette Tasy, Isaac Edikauskas, and Nicholas Consolini were on stage with President Trump as he signed the executive order, and Ellen was even given the opportunity to describe her efforts with Students for Life on campus at Miami University of Ohio. Many other ADF clients were invited to attend the ceremony as well.

At the state level, ADF-CAF attorneys and the ADF Legislative Team celebrated the passage of several more campus free speech bills, bringing this year's total of states that have adopted new campus First Amendment protections to six.



ADF attorney Tyson Langhofer with ADF Clients Ellen Wittman, Bernadette Tasy, and Isaac Edikauskas at the White House

Joining Arkansas, Kentucky, and Iowa are Texas, Oklahoma, and Alabama with bills that ensure public colleges and universities in these states comply with the First Amendment's protection for speech. Moving forward, all students at these schools—including those who wish to start pro-life, conservative, or religious student groups—will have the freedom to do so without fearing censorship.

By God's grace, these vital First Amendment freedoms are now even stronger. Several free speech advocacy organizations collaborated with ADF-CAF to come alongside legislators by providing resources for the passage of each bill, including legislative testimony and review and revision of each state's free speech bills. The ADF-CAF and Legislative Teams are busy strategizing to assist even more states in future

sessions to adopt policies that protect the First Amendment freedom of all students and faculty on public university campuses nationwide. 

CENTER FOR LIFE



The Center for Life team continues to work tirelessly to defend life from conception to natural death. One of those cases is *Bruni v. City of Pittsburgh*, where sidewalk counselors have been prohibited from speaking in a thirty-foot buffer zone in front of abortion facilities.

Since the clinic is located on a busy street between a lot of other businesses, it is hard for sidewalk counselors, like ADF clients Nikki Bruni and Kathleen Laslow, to be able to tell who is going to Planned Parenthood rather than one of the other businesses. But one day as Kathleen was watching, two women and a younger girl who was dressed in baggy clothes as if to hide a pregnancy entered the buffer zone. Kathleen called out to them from down the sidewalk, saying, "You don't have to do this!"

The three women came out about fifteen minutes later, walked down the sidewalk to Kathleen, and asked, "How did you know?" She explained how she felt God had drawn them to her attention. The women told Kathleen

that they had taken her call as a sign from God, and the pregnant girl decided not to have an abortion.

This story is especially encouraging because it shows God's power at work through His followers to protect life, regardless of mankind's efforts to keep Him out. Despite their efforts, city-mandated buffer zones around abortion clinics cannot wall off God and keep Him out of the situation.

On October 18, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit ruled that Pittsburgh's censorship zone ordinance cannot be used to muzzle the free speech of pro-life sidewalk counselors. Rather than strike down the ordinance, the court reinterpreted it so that it no longer applies to such counseling. This is a major victory for sidewalk counselors such as Nikki and Kathleen as they seek to minister to women facing life or death decisions regarding their unborn child.

We are grateful for this positive outcome and look forward to applying this precedent in other cases.

DOBSON V. AZAR

For decades, ADF co-founder Dr. James Dobson has been a leading public advocate of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the biblical plan for marriage, family, and the sanctity of human life from the moment of from conception to natural death.

Dr. Dobson established Family Talk and the James Dobson Family Institute, a non-profit organization, for the *"express purpose of spreading and propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ and specifically to provide Christ-oriented advice, counsel, guidance and education to parents and children and to speak to cultural issues that affect the family."* Based on the Bible's religious and moral teachings, Dr. Dobson and Family Talk sincerely believe that the termination of the life of a preborn child after its conception/fertilization is an intrinsic evil and a sin against God for which they will be held accountable. But despite its unquestionable religious roots, Dr. Dobson and Family Talk, like many other non-profit organizations in America, were required under the

Affordable Care Act to fund abortion-inducing drugs and procedures under a mandate issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The mandate forced Dr. Dobson and Family Talk to choose between providing the objectionable items or paying heavy fines and penalties that would bring the organization to its knees. ADF filed a lawsuit in federal district court on behalf of Dr. Dobson and Family Talk challenging the abortion pill mandate. The court granted a preliminary injunction preventing the federal government from enforcing the abortion pill mandate against Dr. Dobson and Family Talk.

In March, a federal district court issued an order permanently preventing the federal government from enforcing the abortion-pill mandate against Dr. Dobson and Family Talk. The order also declared that the mandate violates the organization's rights protected by the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

CEDAR PARK ASSEMBLY OF GOD OF KIRKLAND V. KREIDLER

On March 8, ADF attorneys filed suit on behalf of Cedar Park Assembly of God in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. This case challenges the constitutionality and legality of Washington State Senate Bill 6219, legislation signed into law last March. The legislation requires Cedar Park and other churches to provide coverage for abortion if the church also offers maternity care coverage to its employees, by imposing fines and criminal penalties, including imprisonment.

As ADF Legal Counsel Elissa Graves said,

No church should be coerced to pay for abortions, least of all a church that dedicates its ministry to protecting and celebrating life. Cedar Park believes and teaches that every human life begins at conception and is worthy of protection at every point until natural death. Further still, Cedar Park demonstrates its pro-life ethic in tangible ways: partnership with a local pregnancy care center, hosting an annual camp for children in foster care, operating a school that serves over 1,000 students, and ministering to hundreds of couples struggling with infertility. The state of Washington has no business strong-arming this church, or any other, into contradicting the deeply held beliefs that motivate its ministry.

Please pray for this courageous church as it takes a stand for life and religious freedom.

CARING FAMILIES V. CITY OF HARTFORD

In April, ADF filed a federal lawsuit to protect a life-affirming, faith-based pregnancy care center, which protects clients with concerns about pregnancy and motherhood from government censorship and coercion.

The city of Hartford enacted an ordinance that forces Caring Families and its affiliated Mobile Care ministry to make compelled statements using signs inside and outside the facility, on its website, and in telephone conversations with clients. According to the complaint, these compelled statements incorrectly imply that the nonprofit is unqualified to provide the range of free services it offers to clients. The ordinance is similar to portions of a California law that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down last year in *NIFLA v. Becerra*.

The city of Hartford compels pregnancy centers to post signs and verbally share messages announcing, *"This facility does not have a licensed medical provider on site to provide or supervise all services."* But, as the ADF complaint notes, Caring Families offers a wide range of services that do not require supervision by a licensed medical provider. And further, Hartford has exempted abortion clinics and community health centers from the ordinance, even in situations when they do not have *"a licensed medical provider present at all times directly providing or directly supervising all medical services."*

"The city of Hartford has no business steering women away from life-affirming help," said ADF Legal Counsel Denise Harle. *"Caring Families exists to help ensure that no woman feels alone, hopeless, or without options during an unexpected pregnancy, and the city shouldn't be using the force of law to make this pro-life care provider imply through its own communications that it is anything but competent and tolerant. Federal laws protect against this kind of ideologically driven harassment. That's why we're asking HHS to protect pregnancy centers from hostile regulation that singles them out."*

Thank you for enabling ADF to stand with these defenders of life! 



CENTER FOR FAMILY VALUES



ADF Clients Selina Soule and Alanna Smith

On June 17, ADF attorneys on behalf of teen track athletes Selina Soule, Alanna Smith, and one anonymous female athlete submitted a complaint to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, asking it to investigate illegal discrimination against the Connecticut athletes. Ever since the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference adopted a policy that allows biological males who identify as female to compete in girls' athletic events, boys have consistently deprived Selina, Alanna, and other female athletes of honors and opportunities to compete at elite levels. Since 2017, girls in Connecticut have been denied recognition or an opportunity to advance to the next round of track competitions over 50 times, robbing these girls of a fair and equal opportunity to experience the "thrill of victory."

The complaint before the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights continues to make the news. In fact, Selina and her complaint were

featured on NBC's Today Show on July 26, which provided an amazingly fair-minded coverage of her story.

The ADF team is very proud of Selina's courage and willingness to persevere despite the backlash she is getting from coaches and others who have attacked her for her stance. Despite some of this negative feedback, Selina has been receiving a great deal of support in Connecticut and across the country.

Alanna took a very gutsy step to join this fight as well. She is quiet and does not like to be the center of attention. But she grew up running with her twin brother and her mom. In fact, working out with her mom is one of her earliest memories, and when Alanna and her brother were only babies, her mom would take them down to the park and lift the twins as weights while doing squats—much to their delight as energetic infants.

It was only when Alanna started her freshman year of high school that she began realizing her own talents in track and field. She won the 400-meter dash at the regional tournament, an astonishing feat for a freshman competitor. However, in the 200-meter dash she was beaten by one of the transgender athletes who beat Selina in a different race. Alanna's parents and coaches recognize the tremendous talent she shows in running, and they are excited for her future in the sport if she is allowed to compete in fair competitions.

Alanna knows that every story is critical in this fight for a level playing field, and she is braving her fear of the limelight to defend the right of every female athlete. Her primary hope is that her stand can advance this issue across the nation for fairness in female sports everywhere. **A**



CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

It is exciting when we get to share a story about how God, in His faithfulness, can turn what seemed to be a loss into a major victory. Such was the case with the following stories:

In May, the U.S. Supreme Court denied the request by Tree of Life Christian Schools in Upper Arlington, Ohio, to hear its case involving the use of a building formerly owned by America Online (AOL). Tree of Life had bought the property to serve more students and consolidate its widespread campuses, some of which were old, had bad electrical systems, and were not up to the task of delivering a high-quality, Bible-based education. Tree of Life's existing buildings were also at full capacity, and it was forced to turn new students away.

However, Upper Arlington officials refused to let Tree of Life use the new property as a Christian school even though daycares and non-profit offices were allowed. ADF attorneys represented

Tree of Life at the federal district court and federal appellate court levels, and then appealed to the Supreme Court for relief which had been denied by the lower courts. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court denied review, leaving the lower court decisions standing, and keeping Tree of Life from using the property for a school.

Thankfully, that is not the end of the story. God's plans for Tree of Life were far from over. Shortly after the Supreme Court's denial, ADF Vice President of Appellate Advocacy and Senior Counsel John Bursch received an excited phone call from Todd Marrah, the Superintendent of Tree of Life.

Todd was approached by the principal of a nearby Christian school, located in a very desirable area. The principal explained that the church supporting her school no longer wanted to be in the education business. They wanted Tree of Life to take over the school's 300 students, and they gave Tree of Life

the opportunity to purchase the property for far below the market price. After a quick consultation with the Board, Todd said yes to that opportunity.

A short time after the Supreme Court issued its order, another opportunity arose for Tree of Life to purchase the property next to its largest existing school. The property had a perfect vacant building for Tree of Life's administrative offices. Office personnel quickly moved in, creating more room for students in the existing school building. And the lot included vacant land with opportunities for expansion via new construction.

The good news continued. After agreeing to buy the property, a vacant school building came up for sale in the same neighborhood as Tree of Life's deficient facility. It is state of the art, allows Tree of Life to grow the existing school by 150 students, and was well below market value. It was an easy decision for Tree of Life to purchase that building as well.

The end result is that in a mere six weeks following the Supreme Court's order, Tree of Life entered into three separate transactions that immediately grew its ministry by 300 students with capacity to quickly add another 150 students, all in modern facilities. Plus, Tree of Life has acquired more than double the acreage of the property at issue in the litigation.

If that wasn't enough, the resale value of the commercial building Tree of Life hoped to use as a school will leave Tree of Life with several million dollars in the bank, even after closing on all three new properties. And the litigation, though ultimately unsuccessful, galvanized Todd and the school community to be bold when these new opportunities presented themselves.

As John Bursch said, *"Todd told me that he and the school community have been blown away by God's goodness and grace. Although his case did not result in a win for religious liberty, it certainly resulted in a win for God's kingdom. What an incredible reminder to trust, not*

despair, when things don't go the way we hope and plan. God is amazing."

THE LYCEUM V. THE CITY OF SOUTH EUCLID

On April 3, ADF attorneys filed a lawsuit on behalf of The Lyceum, a small, Catholic college preparatory school challenging an Ohio city's ordinance that required the school to violate its religious beliefs in employment, admissions, and other policies under threat of fines and jail time.

The Lyceum provides its students with a faith-integrated, classical education and seeks to form "lifelong learners in a joyful pursuit of the Truth, who is Christ." As a faith community, the school seeks to abide by and convey the teachings of the Bible and the doctrine of the Catholic Church, including their teachings on marriage and sexuality. But in 2018, the South Euclid City Council passed a sweeping ordinance that could force the school to hire teachers or enroll students who disagree with its mission and teachings.

Initial drafts of the South Euclid ordinance contained an explicit provision that allowed religious organizations to act consistently with their mission and teachings, but the city council removed those protections from the final text. The ordinance is also vague, making it impossible for The Lyceum's administrators to know whether the school's policies are in violation of the law.

Although the school made multiple attempts to obtain clarification, the city twice illegally refused to answer the school's public records request. And when the school directly asked the city whether its ordinance applies to The Lyceum, the city refused to say. So the school's leaders were left with no other option but to proceed to federal court,

reasonably fearing that living out their faith would directly violate city law and put them at risk of an up to \$500 fine, restitution, or up to 60 days in jail per occurrence.

But after months of refusing to say whether the ordinance would force The Lyceum to operate contrary to its religious beliefs in employment, admissions, and other policies, the city of Euclid, faced with the lawsuit, finally stated that it would not apply the law to the school.

ADF Legal Counsel Christiana Holcomb said:

The Lyceum has accomplished through litigation what it could not convince the city to produce in response to its letter: an answer. We're hopeful that other cities avoid such an unforced error and remain mindful that the First Amendment protects religious schools from government hostility, targeting, and discrimination.

We praise God for these testimonies of His faithfulness to these two schools who seek to instill positive faith-based values in future generations. **A**

Right: ADF Client Luke Macik, Headmaster of The Lyceum



CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

CHURCH AND MINISTRY ALLIANCE

Since the inception of the Church and Ministry Alliance programs, Center for Christian Ministries (CCM) attorneys have completed more than 750 religious liberty legal audits for those members. That is an almost 500% increase from last year which speaks to both the program's tremendous growth and service to the Church in America. These audits review the policies and bylaws of member churches to ensure they contain adequate religious liberty protection. They also provide an opportunity for our attorneys to equip ministry leaders with religious liberty "best practices" to incorporate into their day-to-day operations. We consistently receive feedback that churches are relieved and empowered by these audits, knowing their documents and practices are structured to provide a strong religious liberty legal defense.

In addition to the religious liberty legal audits, and just this year alone, CCM attorneys have provided advice to Church and Ministry Alliance members on

approximately 250 separate religious liberty legal issues. Our counsel on members' rights to freely live out their faith encourages ministries across the country to boldly preach the Gospel and operate in accordance with their sincerely held religious beliefs – beliefs that are protected by the First Amendment!

Since its launch in October of 2018, ADF Ministry Alliance memberships continue to rise as more and more ministries begin to link arms with ADF and each other for the sake of the Gospel. Attorneys for the Center for Christian Ministries are now serving Christian schools, camps, institutions of higher education, homeless shelters, media ministries, marriage ministries, and many more para-church ministries in the same ways they serve churches.

ADF Team Members have also met with church and ministry leadership. By most recent statistics, the church renewal rate is 83%, with new churches joining every month. We are excited about this continued growth, as we seek to equip and protect

these churches and ministries so they can continue their mission to freely live out and proclaim the Gospel.

The Church and Ministry Alliances continue to increase their impact as opportunities for legal assistance and intervention in religious liberty cases are plentiful. In fact, the team is also leading in cases of critical importance to churches across the country.

GAYLOR V. MNUCHIN

On March 15, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit affirmed that a provision in the federal tax code which keeps the Internal Revenue Service from taxing housing money that churches provide to ministers is constitutional. ADF attorneys filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the Seventh Circuit in the case on behalf of 8,899 ministers and churches defending the ministers' housing allowance.

In the opinion, the judges wrote, *"Providing a tax exemption does not 'connote sponsorship, financial support,*

and active involvement of the government in religious activity...' Congressional action to minimize governmental interference with the decision-making process in religions... does not violate the Establishment Clause."

SKYLINE WESLEYAN CHURCH V. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF MANAGED HEALTH CARE

On November 4, ADF Senior Counsel Jeremiah Galus presented oral arguments before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on behalf of Skyline Wesleyan Church. Skyline was forced to sue the California Department of Managed Health Care because the state began mandating that all insurance policies in California provide coverage for elective abortion. The federal district court dismissed Skyline's case, but we are hopeful for a positive result at the appellate level.

NONBELIEF RELIEF V. KAUTTER

ADF attorneys representing New Macedonia Baptist Church, a church in Washington, D.C., intervened in an atheist group's lawsuit that sought to force churches to file annual tax returns with sensitive financial disclosures to the Internal Revenue Service. The federal court first granted the church's request to join the lawsuit, and then granted New Macedonia's motion to dismiss. This case underscores that the government cannot overstep its constitutional bounds by requiring churches to file such forms.

ADF will continue to defend and protect houses of worship and faith-based ministries from government interference and other attempts to limit their ability to minister to their communities. **A**

ADF INTERNATIONAL



ADF International continues to balance a busy slate of cases and strategic engagement on the world stage before institutions such as the United Nations and European Union. In addition, as mentioned earlier in this report, our team continues to engage in strategic training with the launch of our Areté Academy Europe and Areté Academy Asia sessions. Finally, we also hosted a symposium in Vienna for allied attorneys and allied non-governmental organizations.

In Europe, we intervened as a third party in two cases before the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), arguing for greater respect for parental rights in Norway and highlighting issues with its child welfare agency, Barnevernet.

In *Strand Lobben v. Norway*, the Grand Chamber of the ECtHR found in September that Norway violated the fundamental right to family life when a three-week-old child was taken away from his mother in

2008 because doubts were cast about her parenting abilities. We also intervened in *Bodnariu v. Norway* when the Bodnariu family's five children were seized by Barnevernet and placed into state care for no valid reason. We are awaiting a decision in the case.

In Germany, we were encouraged to see a custody victory for the Wunderlich family ensuring that their children can stay in their home (despite the family losing their case at the ECtHR in January). The Wunderlich family has been the target of the German government for the "crime" of homeschooling. We continue to provide legal assistance in additional parental rights cases.

Looking to the future, we are assisting a group of Christians in Russia whose meeting place has been closed. One of their pastors was found guilty of conducting illegal missionary activity. The building was closed for allegedly breaching rules on religious gatherings, and yet, evangelical groups without legal

entity status have no choice but to meet in this way. The authorities have responded by imposing unjustified restrictions. Ninety percent of all evangelical groups meet in residential buildings, and so the case has the potential to impact the whole evangelical community as well as other religious groups.

In India, our allied partners continue to provide support to victims experiencing religious persecution through our 24-hour helpline and through the various legal assistance centers across the country. During 2019, they have responded to over 218 incidents of Christians being violently attacked, often in their homes and churches.

This year also saw significant movement in other high-level cases. The case which seeks to secure legal protections for Dalits who have converted to Christianity has been pending since 2012. The case was listed for hearing before a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court of India the third week of October,

but got delayed. Still, we remain hopeful that the case will be heard soon.

This case presents a unique opportunity to ensure that Dalits who have converted to the Christian faith are not deprived of legal protections and necessary assistance assured to other Dalit communities, including housing, education and employment opportunities. There are over 20 million Dalit Christians in India. If our legal challenge is successful, it will dispel a major impediment to freedom of religion for over 200 million Dalits in India, as it removes roadblocks for the Gospel to be proclaimed to and embraced by the Dalits.

VANISHING GIRLS CAMPAIGN

Unfortunately, in many countries, women are still seen as less valuable than men – including in India. India has lost millions of women in the past decade alone due to the widespread practice of sex-selective abortion and infanticide. Twenty-one million girls



ADF attorneys entering the European Court of Human Rights

are unwanted by their family in the country today, according to the 2018 Economic Survey that the Indian government issued.

In response to this issue, ADF India launched the #VanishingGirls campaign in 2016 to raise awareness of and bring an end to the discriminatory practice of sex-selective abortion, protecting the equal dignity and right to life of every child.

"In our country, 50,000 babies are aborted every month for one reason: They are girls instead of boys," said Tehmina Arora, ADF International Senior Counsel, South Asia. *"India's skewed sex ratio shows that, as a nation, we have failed girls. They are either aborted or,*

once born, subject to various forms of violence. It's time to address this issue."

In addition to raising awareness about sex-selective abortion, ADF India's #VanishingGirls campaign also advocates for a correct implementation of the Pre-Conception Pre-Natal Diagnostics Techniques Act that India adopted in 1994. Implementation of the act has been poor and sporadic in most parts of the country. Nonetheless, the law is an important instrument in the fight against sex-selective abortion and could help bring a gradual change to Indian society, to protect the equal rights of women and girls.

Learn more about this initiative at <https://adfinternational.org/campaign/vanishinggirls/>

AFFIRM DIGNITY | END EUTHANASIA CAMPAIGN

On October 11, on World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, ADF International launched the global Affirm Dignity | End Euthanasia campaign to raise awareness of the threat that legalized euthanasia poses to society and individuals. The campaign encourages people to show their support by signing the Affirm Dignity Charter online.

"All people have inherent dignity, no matter their age or health condition. On World Hospice and Palliative Care Day, we should remind ourselves of the utmost respect

and care the sick, suffering, elderly, and vulnerable in our society deserve; their lives are worth living. This international day also marks the launch of our international Affirm Dignity | End Euthanasia campaign. The legalization of euthanasia implicitly tells the most vulnerable that they are a burden. With this campaign, we want to send the opposite message," said Robert Clarke, Director of European Advocacy for ADF International.

The introduction of euthanasia laws in European countries, such as Belgium and the Netherlands, have seen the number of euthanasia deaths increase every year. In Belgium, these laws were amended in 2014 to also include children.

"The slippery slope is on full public display in Belgium, and we can clearly see the tragic consequences," said Paul Coleman, Executive Director of ADF International. *"According to the most recent government report, more than six people per day are killed in this way, and that may yet be the tip of the iceberg. The figures expose the truth that, once these laws are passed, the impact of euthanasia cannot be controlled. Belgium has set itself on a trajectory that implicitly tells its most vulnerable, including the elderly, that their lives are not worth living. This is not an example that other countries should follow."*

Visit AffirmDignity.org to access a wide range of resources, to engage by signing the Affirm Dignity | End Euthanasia Charter, and to share the campaign on social media. 

THANK YOU

ADF and ADF International thank you for your ongoing prayers and support that have helped us, with God's grace, to defend and protect religious freedom worldwide. We would be greatly honored if you would consider a special year-end gift to help us end the year strong and prepared for not only the legal challenges of today, but also the future. God bless you!



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