



FACT SHEET

State of Washington v. Arlene's Flowers

ABOUT THE CASE

Barronelle Stutzman, the owner of Arlene's Flowers in Richland, Wash., has served and employed people who identify as homosexual over the course of many years. Despite this, the Washington attorney general sued her for exercising her constitutionally protected freedom to act consistent with her faith by referring a long-time customer to a nearby florist for a same-sex ceremony. She had provided flowers to the customer and his partner many times but could not participate in and design floral arrangements for his same-sex ceremony. The state is not only suing Stutzman's business but is also suing her personally. Stutzman, a grandmother who has worked in the floral industry for 40 years, faces the loss of her business and her personal assets.

STATUS AS OF 2014-12-18

Alliance Defending Freedom Senior Counsel Kristen Waggoner and ADF Legal Counsel Jon Scruggs will argue on behalf of Stutzman at a hearing scheduled to be held at Benton Superior Court in Kennewick, Wash., on Dec. 19, 2014.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- Whether the government can force Americans in creative professions to express messages and ideas – and participate in events – against their will or face severe penalties.
- The freedom of family business owners to live and do business according to the teachings of their faith and the dictates of their conscience.
- Whether Americans should be forced to abandon freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, state law, and be subject to “non-discrimination” statutes that conflict with constitutionally protected freedoms.

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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 Kristen K. Waggoner

Kristen K. Waggoner serves as senior vice president of legal services with Alliance Defending Freedom, leading the organization's legal advocacy efforts. She is a Martindale-Hubbell AV peer-review rated attorney who clerked for Justice Richard B. Sanders of the Washington Supreme Court after law school and served in private practice in Seattle for nearly 20 years. Waggoner is admitted to the state bars in Washington, Florida, and Oregon. She is also admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the 1st and 9th Circuits, and the U.S. District Courts for the Western and Eastern Districts of Washington.

ABOUT Jonathan Scruggs

Jonathan Scruggs serves as legal counsel for the Center for Religious Liberty with Alliance Defending Freedom. He earned his J.D. at Harvard Law School and is admitted to practice in the state of Tennessee, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, and the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Circuits.