



FACT SHEET ***Town of Greece v. Galloway***

ABOUT Town of Greece v. Galloway

In February 2008, Americans United for Separation of Church and State sued the town of Greece on behalf of local residents Susan Galloway and Linda Stephens. The lawsuit alleges that continued Christian prayer at the opening of town meetings is unconstitutional. The following month, Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys responded to the lawsuit on behalf of the Greece Town Board, arguing that the practice of town councils to acknowledge America's religious heritage and invoke divine guidance and blessings upon their work has always been constitutional. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York ruled in August 2010 that the town could open public meetings with prayer. AUSCS then appealed the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, which reversed the decision. At the town's request, the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review the case.

CURRENT STATUS OF Town of Greece v. Galloway AS OF 11/5/2013

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case on Nov. 6, 2013.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- The continuation of the public prayer tradition that began with America's founding.
- The liberty of community volunteers to pray according to their faith in a public setting without censorship.
- The preservation of freedom of speech in the face of one "offended" person's demands for censorship.
- The foundational American principle of freedom of religion.

CONTACT Alliance Defending Freedom Media and Public Relations

On Nov. 5-6, 2013, members of the media in Washington, D.C. who desire interviews should contact Senior Director of Media Relations Greg Scott at (480) 710-1965. Members of the media outside of Washington, D.C. should call (480) 444-0020, use the ADFmedia.org [online interview request page](#), or send e-mail to media@alliancedefendingfreedom.org.

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 A. Cortman

David A. Cortman serves as senior counsel and vice president of litigation with Alliance Defending Freedom. 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 more than 17 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 Brett Harvey

Brett Harvey serves as senior counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom at its headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he leads the Grants and Funding team. Harvey has assisted state and local governments on issues involving public invocations, and he has successfully represented clients in defense of their First Amendment freedoms and the right to life. He earned his J.D. from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University in Georgia and is admitted to the bar in the states of Georgia, Florida, Colorado, and Arizona. Harvey has also been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court; the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the 6th, 9th, 10th, and 11th Circuits; and the U.S. District Court in Colorado. He joined Alliance Defending Freedom in 2000 and has been practicing law since 1995.

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