



FACT SHEET

Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Human Rights Commission

ABOUT THE CASE

In July 2012, Charlie Craig and David Mullins asked Jack Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, to design a wedding cake to celebrate their same-sex ceremony. In an exchange lasting about 30 seconds, Phillips politely declined, explaining that he would gladly make them any other type of baked item they wanted but that he could not design a cake promoting a same-sex ceremony because of his faith. Craig and Mullins, now represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, immediately left the shop and later filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which eventually ruled against Phillips. The same-sex couple was easily able to obtain their desired rainbow-themed cake for free from another nearby cake artist.

STATUS AS OF 2017-06-28

Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys, on behalf of Phillips, filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court on July 22, 2016, that asked the court to review an adverse decision from the Colorado Court of Appeals that the Colorado Supreme Court declined to address. On June 26, 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to take up the case.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- Whether the government can force Americans in artistic professions to artistically design and create expression celebrating ideas and events that violate their beliefs.
- Whether family business owners will be able to continue 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 and state law as the price of operating a business.

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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 Waggoner

Kristen K. Waggoner serves as senior vice president of US legal advocacy 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 Jeremy Tedesco

Jeremy Tedesco serves as senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, where he is director of the Center for Conscience Initiatives. In 2004, he earned his J.D. from the Regent University School of Law. Tedesco is admitted to the State Bar of Arizona; the Supreme and District Court of Arizona; the District Court of Colorado; the U.S. Courts of Appeal for the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th Circuits; and the U.S. Supreme Court.