Alliance Defending Freedom is an alliance-building legal organization that advocates for the right of people to freely live out their faith.

Recognizing the need for a strong, coordinated legal defense against growing attacks on religious freedom, more than 30 prominent Christian leaders launched ADF in 1994. Since that time, this unique legal organization has brought together thousands of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations that work tirelessly to advocate for the right of people to freely live out their faith in America and around the world.

A Leader in Freedom

A WINNING RECORD

Alliance Defending Freedom court victories have safeguarded the God-given, constitutionally protected right to religious freedom for thousands of Christians. Students, parents, business owners, employees, pastors, and community members who were previously censored or punished are now free to live out their faith.

79% ADF has won nearly 79 percent of all its cases.

56 ADF has played various roles in 56 victories at the U.S. Supreme Court and hundreds more in the lower courts.
Alliance Defending Freedom was founded by the sacrificial and generous efforts of more than 30 prominent Christian leaders, with six exceptional individuals leading the way. They set the high standards of excellence and responsible stewardship that the organization abides by to this day.

Dr. Bill Bright  
Founder, Cru (Formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) (1921-2003)

Larry Burkett  

Dr. James C. Dobson  
Founder, Focus on the Family, Family Talk

Dr. D. James Kennedy  
Former Senior Pastor, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church (1930-2007)

Marlin Maddoux  
Former Host, Point of View Radio Program (1933-2004)

William Pew  
Former Chairman, Maranatha Foundation, businessman and author (1922-1997)
Michael P. Farris is president, CEO, and general counsel of Alliance Defending Freedom. Only the second person to hold this role in the organization’s history, Mr. Farris draws on his remarkably diverse background as an effective litigator, educator, public advocate, pastor, and communicator, and is widely recognized for his successful work in these areas all over the globe.

Prior to joining Alliance Defending Freedom in 2017, Mr. Farris was founding president of both the Home School Legal Defense Association (1983) and Patrick Henry College (2000). He continues to serve as chairman of the board of HSLDA and chancellor emeritus of PHC.

He graduated magna cum laude from Western Washington State College with a bachelor’s in political science, then earned a Juris Doctor from Gonzaga University with honors and an LL.M. in Public International Law with honors from the University of London.

Mr. Farris has argued before the Supreme Court of the United States, eight federal appellate courts, and in the appellate courts of 13 states. He is also the author of numerous amicus briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court.

A respected presence on Capitol Hill for over 30 years, Mr. Farris has testified many times before both the House and Senate. As an executive committee member of the Coalition for the Free Exercise of Religion, he successfully lobbied Congress for the passage of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, and served as co-chairman of the drafting committee that wrote the law.

Mr. Farris is the author of more than 15 books, as well as law review and other scholarly articles, and countless pieces for the popular press.

He and his wife, Vickie, have 10 children and 20 grandchildren. Read Mr. Farris’ full bio at ADFlegal.org/Leadership.
The nation’s leading media outlets rely on Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys for their legal expertise on First Amendment freedoms.

**What Others Are Saying**

“\textit{If there is a single organization most responsible for the surge in student-speech cases, it may be [ADF], an Arizona-based network of Christian lawyers. Since 1994 the ADF has filed hundreds of cases advocating religious speech in the schools and a spokesman claims that it is ‘the driving force on this issue in the courts today.”}
— TIME magazine

“\textit{Alliance Defending Freedom is a powerhouse of conservative Christian advocacy that has litigated some of the biggest sociological issues of the last two decades.”}
— VICE News

“\textit{Christian group becomes force in major legal battles.”}
— The Washington Post

“The 800-pound gorilla of the Christian Right.”
— Think Progress

“[Alliance Defending Freedom is] ‘smart and savvy’ [and has] ‘stormed onto the legal scene to take on the courts... ADF and its allies are changing the dynamics in the battle over faith and culture.’”
— National Public Radio

“ADF is the big gorilla in religious liberty litigation.”
— Hugh Hewitt, Salem Radio Network

“ADF boasts an impressive media presence and sponsors a series of legal training programs for law students and seasoned attorneys alike.”
— Daniel Bennett, Religion & Politics

ADFmedia.org
Alliance Defending Freedom employs a professional team of skilled constitutional attorneys who work closely with more than 3,000 allied attorneys to advance religious freedom. The generosity of thousands of Ministry Friends allows ADF to provide legal assistance free of charge and to select strategic cases that set necessary legal precedents.

**Funding Allies**

Since 1994, Alliance Defending Freedom has provided thousands of allies with critical funding for precedent-setting victories on behalf of religious liberty, the sanctity of life, and marriage and family. Many of these victories would not have been possible without the necessary funding to sustain a quality, long-term legal defense.
Alliance Defending Freedom has built an alliance of more than 3,100 attorneys and 1,000 allied organizations worldwide – including family policy councils, Christian ministries, student campus organizations, and others – to defend religious liberty, marriage and the family, and the sanctity of life.

By forging strong alliances with like-minded attorneys and organizations, ADF is able to coordinate strategic efforts for important cases and set an overarching strategy for victory in these areas.
The Alliance Defending Freedom Academy provides Christian attorneys with training from the nation’s top litigators and constitutional law experts on how to effectively advocate for religious freedom. In return, these allied attorneys donate hundreds of dedicated pro bono hours to protect and preserve religious liberty in their local communities.

Since 2000, Alliance Defending Freedom has trained more than 2,200 law students from more than 225 law schools in nearly 21 different countries through the Blackstone Legal Fellowship. Blackstone is a leadership development program that brings together exceptional Christian law students and prepares them for careers marked by integrity, excellence, and leadership.

This nine-week summer program begins with two weeks of seminars on topics such as legal philosophy, constitutional law, and practicing the Christian faith within the legal profession. Interns then spend six weeks engaged in legal internships across the world, working with non-profits, governmental entities, and boutique law firms, among others. Blackstone Legal Fellowship concludes with a final week focused on career development and cultural engagement.
ADFmedia.org is a valuable resource for journalists. Each Alliance Defending Freedom case or issue area includes a resource page with legal documents, case summaries, news releases, fact sheets, and even sound bites and video clips. These resources are designed to provide the answers and content necessary to build your story and meet your deadline.
ADF International, a global partner of Alliance Defending Freedom, is an alliance-building legal organization that advocates for the right of people to freely live out their faith. With headquarters in Vienna and additional offices located in other centers of legal and political influence, ADF International is at the forefront of defending religious freedom, the sanctity of life, and marriage and family around the world.

ADF International builds alliances and engages in legal advocacy to protect and promote religious freedom throughout Europe, Asia, and the Americas. We operate at institutions of strategic international importance, namely: the United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe, Organization of American States, Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Court of Human Rights. Since launching in 2010, the ADF International team has secured 21 victories at the European Court of Human Rights, one of the most influential courts in the world.
ADF MEDIA RELATIONS

To schedule an interview with an Alliance Defending Freedom attorney or allied attorney, please contact the ADF Media Communications Team:

**Alliance Defending Freedom**

**Phone:** (480) 444-0020  
**Fax:** (480) 444-0025  
**Email:** media@ADFlegal.org  
**ADF Main Website:** ADFlegal.org  
**ADF Media Website:** ADFmedia.org  
**ADF International Website:** ADFinternational.org

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