



FACT SHEET

Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries v. Glover

ABOUT Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries v. Glover

After granting permission to the leader of Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries, Dr. Hattie Hopkins, to hold meetings at the Antioch Branch Library on two dates in 2004, Contra Costa officials told her toward the end of the first meeting that she could no longer hold meetings there because the county's policy states that "library meeting rooms shall not be used for religious purposes." On behalf of Faith Center, Alliance Defense Fund attorneys filed a lawsuit against Contra Costa County officials, contesting the constitutionality of the policy.

CURRENT STATUS OF Faith Center Church Evangelistic Ministries v. Glover AS OF 1/8/09

In July 2004, ADF attorneys filed a lawsuit with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California against Glover on behalf of Faith Center, arguing that Antioch Branch Library's policy is unconstitutional. In May 2005, ADF attorneys obtained a preliminary injunction from the court to prevent the library from enforcing its ban on "religious services" pending the outcome of the litigation. After the library appealed the decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, the U.S. Department of Justice filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the court agreeing with ADF that the library's policy was unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination. The 9th Circuit reversed the district court's favorable decision in part in September 2006. After the 9th Circuit denied an ADF petition for rehearing in March 2007, ADF attorneys appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, with three major pro-liberty organizations, the Christian Legal Society, CATO Institute, and Eagle Forum, each filing friend-of-the-court briefs supporting Faith Center's plea for equal access. In November 2007, the high court decided not to hear the matter, so both sides filed summary judgment motions in September 2008 with the district court requesting a final ruling on all claims. ADF Legal Counsel Tim Chandler will present oral arguments for summary judgment in a hearing on Jan. 9 at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?

If the court rules the library's policy constitutional, religious groups will be excluded from the same public access rights that are freely extended to other citizens and organizations with non-religious beliefs, essentially legalizing viewpoint discrimination in the library's public meeting rooms when religion is involved.

CONTACT

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ABOUT ADF

ADF is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. Launched in 1994, ADF employs a unique combination of [strategy, training, funding, and litigation](#) to protect and preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family.

ABOUT Tim Chandler

Tim Chandler is legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund. He earned his J.D. from UCLA School of Law, and is a Blackstone Fellow. Chandler is admitted to the bar in California, as well as to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and each federal district court in California. He has practiced law at ADF for four years.