



## **FACT SHEET**

### ***University of Wisconsin-Madison Roman Catholic Foundation v. Walsh***

#### ***ABOUT University of Wisconsin-Madison Roman Catholic Foundation v. Walsh***

In May 2007, the University of Wisconsin-Madison agreed to a settlement in a lawsuit filed by ADF attorneys on behalf of the school's Roman Catholic Foundation, which had been denied official recognition and equal access to student fees and facilities that other student groups enjoyed. Shortly thereafter, the school reneged on the settlement agreement and resumed its discrimination against the foundation. On Sep. 10, 2007, ADF attorneys filed a new lawsuit against the school for its failure to honor the settlement agreement.

#### ***CURRENT STATUS OF Univ. of Wis. Roman Catholic Foundation v. Walsh AS OF 10/26/09***

In December 2007, ADF attorneys filed a motion for preliminary injunction against UW-Madison to halt its discriminatory policy toward the Roman Catholic Foundation. In January 2008, the court granted the motion. The case was then transferred to a second judge, who ruled on the final motions in the case. He rejected much of what RCF had won in the preliminary injunction, giving only a declaratory judgment and denying the request for an injunction against the university's discriminatory policy. He also denied the request for an order requiring the university to pay the \$35,000 in expenses it had agreed—but was now refusing—to pay RCF. On behalf of RCF, ADF attorneys appealed the inadequate relief granted by the lower court. The university also appealed, claiming the Establishment Clause prohibited the lower court from ruling in favor of RCF at all. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit will hear oral argument on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

#### ***FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?***

The constitutional right for campus religious groups to have the same access to student fees and funding that all other campus groups receive is at stake. Federal courts have repeatedly ruled that public universities cannot discriminate against religious student organizations and claim that the Establishment Clause requires such discriminatory treatment.

#### ***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 Jordan Lorence***

Jordan Lorence serves as senior counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund at its Washington, D.C., Regional Service Center. He has litigated with ADF in the areas of religious liberty, sanctity of life, and the defense of marriage as the union of one man and one woman since 1994. Lorence earned his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School and has been practicing law since 1980. He is admitted to the bar in three states, the U.S. Supreme Court, and multiple federal courts.