



FACT SHEET

Bronx Household of Faith v. Board of Education for the City of New York

ABOUT Bronx Household of Faith v. Board of Education for the City of New York

The Bronx Household of Faith is an inner-city New York City church that sought to rent a public school building on Sundays to hold its weekly worship service but had its request rejected by the New York City Department of Education. This led to a 15-year legal battle in the federal court system to secure equal access to public facilities not only for Bronx Household of Faith, but for other churches as well.

CURRENT STATUS OF Bronx Household of Faith v. Board of Education AS OF 10/5/09

In 1994, Bronx Household of Faith sought to rent a public school building to meet on Sunday morning, but the New York City Department of Education refused. Attorney Jordan Lorence filed suit on behalf of the church to secure the same access to public facilities that other groups enjoyed. The church eventually lost at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit. In 2001, in the majority opinion of *Good News Club v. Milford Central Schools*, Associate Justice Clarence Thomas implied that the earlier *Bronx* decision had been decided wrongly. Lorence then filed a new suit on the church's behalf, which resulted in a reversal of the previous decision by the federal district court in 2003. The New York City Board of Education has subsequently filed appeals on various issues, which eventually resulted in the federal district court issuing a permanent injunction in November 2007 allowing Bronx Household of Faith and other churches to rent school buildings on weekends for worship services. The board of education has now appealed that decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, which will hold oral arguments on Oct. 6.

FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?

The right of churches and religious organizations to rent public facilities on the same terms and conditions as all other groups is at stake. If the New York Board of Education prevails in this case, it will succeed at singling out churches and religious organizations for discrimination by favoring other groups based simply on their viewpoint.

CONTACT

ADF Media Relations

Phone: (480) 444-0020, x. 17102 / E-mail: adfmedia@telladf.org / Web: www.adfmedia.org/home/contact

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.