

What's at Stake?

Free Speech on Campus

Public universities all too often create broad prohibitions on student speech concerning religion, sexual conduct and other topics that might “offend” someone, even if what was said was not meant to offend. “Offense,” of course, is in the eye and ear of the beholder, and it is as varied as the campus population. Yet these speech codes ignore that simple truth and, when applied, ultimately stifle campus discussion on important social questions. Because these codes are often employed to silence Christian speech, these students risk punishment for speaking up. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has twice placed strict limits on these speech codes, holding that they violate the First Amendment...most recently in *DeJohn v. Temple University*, a case won by the Alliance Defense Fund in 2008.

Unfortunately, many public universities in the Third Circuit (PA, NJ, DE, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) have ignored or are ignorant of this ruling and have failed to comply with the law. By launching a campaign to emphasize adherence to the *DeJohn v. Temple University* decision, ADF hopes that these universities will finally recognize their constitutional obligations, amend their policies, respect student speech rights, and avoid needless litigation.

What's At Stake on the University Campus?

- Whether students with beliefs that don't agree with the prevailing orthodoxy of university elites will be free to participate in the campus marketplace of ideas without fear of punishment because of unconstitutional policies.
- Whether the campus is to be open to free speech and lively debate or shut down by campus officials with the unlimited power to silence “unapproved” opinions.
- Whether public universities will continue to enforce broad prohibitions on student speech merely because some might be “offended” by another's ideas.
- Whether the many universities under Third Circuit jurisdiction will continue to defy these decisions by refusing to alter their unconstitutional policies.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

PRAY – for ADF attorneys and the students who are challenging the unconstitutional policies that suppress free speech.

LEARN MORE – Join the conversation online at [Facebook.com/SpeakUpU](https://www.facebook.com/SpeakUpU) to learn more about the campaign to uphold free speech at our nation's public universities.

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