



FACT SHEET

E.K. v. Deer Valley Unified School District

ABOUT E.K. v. Deer Valley Unified School District

A Christian club was prevented from having its announcement read over the PA system at Mountain Ridge High School because it included the word “prayer.” After a Common Cause club member questioned the school’s unconstitutional policy and requested that the announcement be returned, the assistant principal ripped it up and tossed it in the wastebasket. It was later found that the school also violated the club’s free speech rights by prohibiting it from distributing flyers because they contained a religious symbol.

CURRENT STATUS OF E.K. v. Deer Valley School District AS OF 4/17/08

ADF attorneys filed an amended complaint on Feb. 22, followed by a motion for preliminary injunction on Feb. 27, against the Deer Valley Unified School District. The lawsuit alleges that school officials violated the Common Cause club’s constitutional rights by prohibiting its invitation to a prayer meeting which was to take place during non-instructional time. ADF attorneys are also challenging an unconstitutional policy that prevented the club from handing out literature during non-instructional time because the literature contained a religious symbol.

FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?

The rights of student clubs and individuals to engage in religious expression in a non-disruptive manner on public school campuses is at stake. If the student represented by ADF prevails in this case, those rights would be vindicated, and religious speech would be treated the same as all other speech at the school, as the First Amendment requires.

CONTACT

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ABOUT ADF

The Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) is a legal alliance defending the right to hear and speak the Truth through strategy, training, funding, and litigation. ADF has nearly 1,100 allied attorneys who are dedicated to defending and protecting religious freedom, sanctity of life, marriage, and the family.

ABOUT Jeremy Tedesco

Jeremy Tedesco serves as legal counsel at the Alliance Defense Fund since 2004. In 1997, he earned his juris doctor from Regent University, where he was a recipient of the West’s Academic Achievement Award at the Regent University School of Law.

ABOUT David Cortman

David Cortman is a senior legal counsel with the Alliance Defense Fund. Cortman earned his J.D. at Regent University School of Law and is admitted to the bar in Georgia and Florida, and at the D.C. Court of Appeals. He has practiced law for 11 years.