

# What's at Stake? FREEDOM ON CAMPUS

## *CLS v. Martinez* Supreme Court Case

The University of California Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco refused to recognize the Christian Legal Society (CLS) chapter on its campus as a registered student group because CLS requires that its officers and voting members subscribe to its Christian beliefs. CLS filed a lawsuit against the university that will be heard before the U. S. Supreme Court on April 19, 2010. If the high court rules in favor of the university's non-discrimination policy, then religious student organizations at public universities across America could be denied their constitutionally protected right to associate with like-minded individuals and determine their own leadership based on the groups' core beliefs and mission.

### What's at Stake for Christian Student Groups on Campus?

- **FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION.** All student groups have the right to associate with people who share common beliefs and interests and to ensure that its leaders agree with the group's core mission. Requiring leaders of a Christian club to live by a Christian code of conduct is no different than an environmentalist club requiring its leaders not to be lumberjacks.
- **EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.** Christian student groups should not be forced to deny their faith in order to be treated as every other student group on campus.
- **FREEDOM TO EXERCISE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.** College students' freedom to express and advocate for their religious beliefs through student organizations is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It is unconstitutional for a public university to disrupt the purposes of private religious student groups by forcing them to deny their faith in order to be treated the same as other student groups.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

**PRAY** – for a favorable decision in this important case to uphold the constitutionally protected rights of Christian student groups on campus. Encourage your student organization, small group, or Bible study to lift up this case in prayer until the decision from the Supreme Court is handed down.

**LEARN MORE** – join the conversation online at [Facebook.com/AllianceDefenseFund](https://www.facebook.com/AllianceDefenseFund) or [Facebook.com/SpeakUpU](https://www.facebook.com/SpeakUpU) to learn more about this case and other attacks on religious freedom across America.

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