



FACT SHEET ***Roach v. Davis***

ABOUT Roach v. Davis

Pro-life organization Choose Life of Missouri appealed the initial unfavorable decision of a Missouri Department of Revenue committee that rejected its application for approval of a “Choose Life” license plate. After the committee’s second denial, Choose Life took legal action, alleging the committee’s viewpoint discrimination against politically and socially conservative speech as the basis for its suit. Two state senators on the committee objected to Choose Life’s application, which led to the denials.

CURRENT STATUS OF Roach v. Davis AS OF 10/15/08

In June 2006, attorneys with the ADF attorneys filed a lawsuit on behalf of Choose Life alleging that the Missouri Department of Revenue’s denial of the application for approval of the pro-life plates was in violation of the Missouri Constitution and the U.S. Constitution for discriminating against politically and socially conservative speech. In the lawsuit *Choose Life of Missouri v. Vincent*, a federal court ruled in favor of Choose Life in January 2008, declaring the state’s approval process for specialty plates unconstitutional. The state appealed the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, which refused to stay the district court’s decision while the case is on appeal. ADF Senior Legal Counsel Joel Oster will present opening appellate arguments in the lawsuit—now named *Roach v. Davis*—at a hearing on Oct. 16. ADF attorneys are representing Choose Life President Kevin Roach and Choose Life of Missouri against Missouri Dept. of Revenue Director Omar Davis, who replaced former director Trish Vincent.

FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?

A decision in this case will determine whether state government officials have the authority to deny specialty license plate applications without explanation based on their personal objections to the message, which would have the result of cutting off funds to community support organizations such as adoption centers and battered women shelters across the state while allowing funds for other community organizations to which the officials do not object.

CONTACT

Greg Scott, National Media Relations Director

Phone: (480) 444-0020, ext. 18111 / E-mail: gscott@telladf.org / Web: www.telladf.org/pressroom

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 Joel Oster

Joel L. Oster serves as senior legal counsel at the Alliance Defense Fund. Before joining the organization in 2004, Oster earned his J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law. He is admitted to the bar in Kansas, Missouri, Florida, and numerous federal courts, and has practiced law for 10 years.