



FACT SHEET ***Rock for Life v. Hrabowski***

ABOUT ROCK FOR LIFE V. HRABOWSKI

On April 17, 2007, Alexander Vernet, a student at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, reserved space for the school's Rock for Life club to put up a pro-life display called the "Genocide Awareness Project." After initially granting the request, school officials informed Vernet that the display constituted "emotional harassment," which is prohibited by the university's student "speech code," and that the display must be moved from a highly-visible area of campus to an area with much less student traffic. When Vernet tried to set up in the new area on the morning of the event, he was ordered by school officials and campus police to relocate the display again, this time to a large vacant field in a nearly-deserted area of campus.

CURRENT STATUS OF ROCK FOR LIFE V. HRABOWSKI as of 8/7/08

On April 2, 2008, attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund Center for Academic Freedom filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, Baltimore Division, challenging the University of Maryland-Baltimore County's speech code and speech zone policies. ADF attorneys are asking the court to issue a preliminary injunction halting the implementation of these policies and allowing Rock for Life to erect its display where it can be seen while the lawsuit against the university moves forward.

FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?

The hearing focuses on the constitutionality of the university's speech code and speech zone policies, which have been used in a discriminatory manner against the pro-life student group, and the investigation by the university police department of "Acts of Intolerance" and similar violations of the speech code. The First Amendment rights to free speech and equal access are at stake. The right to freedom of assembly protected by the First Amendment is the ability for all groups, regardless of their political views, to enjoy the same access to facilities and funding.

CONTACT

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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 Steven H. Aden

Steven H. Aden is senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund Center for Academic Freedom. Aden has been litigating First Amendment issues for nearly two decades. He previously served as chief litigation counsel for the Christian Legal Society's Center for Law & Religious Freedom.