

# RUTHERFORD INSTITUTE

## 2008 CASE SUMMARY REPORT

*The following is a sampling of Rutherford Institute cases currently making their way through the courts.*

### United States Supreme Court

*Borden v. East Brunswick Sch. Dist.* (NJ): High school football coach was prohibited from silently bowing his head during team's pre-game prayer.

*Turner v. City of Fredericksburg* (VA): City Council member was prohibited from ending his prayers at Council meetings "in Jesus' name."

*Victory Outreach v. Melso* (PA): Minister was arrested while preaching on university campus.

### Litigation Cases

*Bernstein v. Twp. of Freehold* (NJ): Rabbi was fined under zoning ordinance for gathering at home with friends and family to pray.

*Bowman v. Dept. of Defense* (OH): Retired military chaplain, required to do community service in order to claim full pension, was denied full benefits because religious activities are disqualified.

*Busch v. Culbertson School* (PA): Mother was prevented from reading her son's favorite Bible verse during a classroom program about the child's favorite book.

*Calvary Temple Assembly v. City of Marinette* (WI): Church was denied zoning permit to provide a faith-based counseling service on its property.

*Christ Covenant Church v. Town of Southwest Ranches* (FL): Church was denied zoning permit to construct Sunday School building on its property.

*Dobrich v. Indian River Sch. Dist.* (DE): School board was sued over its practice of opening meetings with prayer.

*First Congregational Church of Hamilton v. Hamilton, Mass.* (MA): Historic commission denied church a permit to build fellowship hall adjacent to its historic sanctuary.

*Frantz v. Gress* (PA): Street preacher was cited for passing out religious tracts to passersby.

*Lloyd Johnson v. Home Depot, Inc.* (IL): Tool rental technician was denied accommodation regarding his religious beliefs about not working on Sunday.

*McComb v. Clark County School Dist.* (NV): High school valedictorian had her microphone unplugged after she spoke about the role faith played in her success.

*Meeker v. Rockwell Collins* (IA): Employee was terminated after voicing religious objection to having to attend diversity training seminar involving homosexuality.

*Nurre v. Whitehead* (WA): Wind ensemble was prevented from playing an instrumental arrangement of "Ave Maria" at graduation due to fears that it was religious in nature.

*Patrick v. State of Michigan Office of Financial Aid*: Graduate student was denied use of tuition grant for degree in divinity, theology or religious instruction.

*Riback v. City of Las Vegas* (NV): Jewish police officer was denied religious accommodation and prohibited from wearing short beard and yarmulke.

*Rhoades v. Penn-Harris-Madison School District* (IN): A 15-year-old student was subjected to a mental screening exam at school without her parents' knowledge or consent.

*Sloan v. West Va. Dept. of Nat. Res.* (WV): Political campaigner was prevented from obtaining signed petitions at a state park for upcoming state election.

*Steinburg v. Chesterfield County Planning Comm'n* (VA): Resident was arrested after voicing objections at a planning commission meeting to a housing development near abandoned mines.

*Wei Hsien Wan v. INS* (CO): Student missionary from Malaysia who was working on college campuses had his visa revoked.

## Pre-Litigation Cases

*The Ark Christian Ctr. v. City of Honolulu* (HI): Church was cited for meeting in an industrial neighborhood.

*Etz Chaim v. Twp. of Teaneck* (NJ): Rabbi is being prohibited from meeting in his home with friends and family for prayer.

*Griffith v. Uggetti* (MT): High school valedictorian was prohibited from speaking about life lessons learned from God in graduation speech.

*Henry v. Community Counseling Center* (NV): Counselor was prevented from leading Alcoholics Anonymous meetings after objecting to a ban on Bibles at the facility.

*Hope Aglow Ministries v. Spotsylvania County* (VA): Christian outreach ministry was denied use of space for twice-weekly worship services.

*King v. Cardinal Health*: Pastor working part-time as delivery driver was denied accommodation and threatened with termination unless he agreed to work Sunday.

*Kinney v. U.S. Dept. of Vet. Affairs* (NC): Volunteers at veteran's hospital were ordered not to discuss religion with patients.

*Miska v. U.S.*: Vietnam War veteran was arrested for distributing memorial poppies near the Vietnam War Memorial.

*Stefanie Otto v. Prairie Ridge High School* (IL): Science teacher was ordered to stop including creationism in her classroom discussions about evolution.

*Roberts v. Univ. of Arkansas*: Univ. of Arkansas allegedly refused to accept transfer of course credits from a Bible college due to its faith-based curriculum.

*Wingspread Prison Ministries v. Okla. Dept. of Corrections* (OK): Prison outreach ministry was ordered to cease sending Bibles to prisoners.