



## The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty

**The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty** is an interfaith, public interest law firm protecting the free expression of all religious traditions. The Becket Fund operates in three arenas: in the courts of law (litigation), in the court of public opinion (media), and in the academy (scholarship). We believe that the freedom to inquire after the truth – and after God – crosses cultures, geography, and language.

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### Our Philosophy

Freedom of religion is a basic human right that no government may lawfully deny; it is not a gift of the state, but instead is rooted in the inherent dignity of the human person. Religious expression (of all traditions) is a natural part of life in civilized society, and religious arguments (on all sides of a question) are a normal and healthy element of public debate. Religious people and institutions are entitled to participate in public life and government affairs on an equal basis with everyone else, and should not be excluded for professing their faith.



In *Salazar v. Buono*, a memorial cross on public property is covered.

We have developed expertise in all areas of religious freedom law, but especially under the Free Speech, Free Exercise, and Establishment Clauses of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We have defended individuals against intrusive government infringements upon their free exercise rights and have defended governments against Establishment Clause “abuse” by those attempting to make the public square a religion-free zone.

### Litigation

As a law firm, The Becket Fund files lawsuits – on behalf of people of all faiths. We have represented people of faith literally from A to Z – Anglicans, Zoroastrians, and virtually everyone in between – as both primary counsel and *amicus curiae*, in federal and state trial and appellate courts, throughout the United States.



*Castle Hills First Baptist Church v. City*



## Media

The Becket Fund makes its case for religious freedom not only in the courts of law, but also in the court of public opinion.

Our cases garner extensive news coverage in all forms – press, internet, television, and radio. In addition, our attorneys and professional staff deliver our message by publishing op-eds, delivering public lectures, and providing expert commentary on television and radio. Our influence has also been felt over the television airwaves, with Becket Fund representatives appearing on everything from Fox & Friends to Al-Jazeera.



*ACLU v. Schundler*

## Scholarship

Becket Fund attorneys regularly publish law review articles and present scholarly lectures at think tanks and major law schools. Its litigation work has been profiled, praised and critiqued in law reviews and journals including Yale, Harvard, Michigan, NYU, Duke, UVA, UCLA, and Notre Dame.

In 2005, founder and chairman Kevin “Seamus” Hasson published a book on the history of religious liberty in the United States, *The Right to be Wrong: Ending the Culture War Over Religion in America* (Encounter Press 2005). *The Right to be Wrong* is already being used in law school curricula around the country.

The Becket Fund also provides certified Continuing Legal Education Courses. Topics have included: RLUIPA, holiday displays, and the First Amendment.

Becket Fund attorneys have had their own legal scholarship published in law journals at Harvard, North Carolina and George Mason, to name a few.