

From: Amanda Tyler <at Tyler@bjconline.org>

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 2:33:19 PM

To: Jacobs-Strain, Gina <Gina.Jacobs-Strain@abc-usa.org>; Haggray, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Haggray@abhms.org>

Cc: Holly Hollman <hhollman@bjconline.org>

Subject: TIME SENSITIVE AND CONFIDENTIAL: Meeting to discuss possible religious freedom litigation

Dr. Jacobs-Strain and Dr. Haggray,

I am reaching out today with an invitation to connect about possible legal action involving religious freedom, immigration and expected action from the incoming Administration. Holly and I met today with Kelsi Brown Corkran and Jim Simpson about their litigation plan and agreed to help with outreach to Baptist denominational partners. We plan to reach out to other supporting bodies of BJC, but are reaching out first to ABCUSA to see if someone would be available to attend a Zoom meeting **next Wednesday, January 22, anytime between 12 and 2:30 pm ET** to learn more.

I've included the initial outreach below with more information on the project. Would one or both of you (or your designees) be available to meet on Wednesday?

Many thanks for your commitment to religious freedom for all and for your witness to justice matters in these challenging days. We are honored to be in partnership with you.

With gratitude,
Amanda



Amanda Tyler
Executive Director

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Dear partners,

As part of its pledge to conduct mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, [the incoming Trump Administration has signaled its intent](#) to rescind a longstanding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy that substantially restricts ICE agents from conducting immigration arrests in or near churches and other “sensitive locations.” We are working with the [Institute for Constitutional Advocacy & Protection \(ICAP\) at Georgetown Law](#) to prepare litigation to challenge this policy rescission, which could happen as soon as President Trump’s first day in office. ICAP’s Supreme Court Director, [Kelsi Brown Corkran](#) (cc'd here), is hoping to connect with denominations, churches, and religious leaders who may be interested in either serving as plaintiffs in

litigation challenging the sensitive locations policy rescission, or otherwise supporting such litigation through amicus filings, etc.

ICAP has a long history of defending the rights of religious organizations and people of faith in their efforts to serve and protect vulnerable populations, including:

- Representing Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley (CCRGV) in defending against an investigation by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton into the organization's provision of charitable services to asylum seekers.
- Bringing a First Amendment challenge to a Georgia law that imposes severe restrictions on the payment of charitable cash bail, on behalf of a non-profit organization and two individuals who pay cash bail for their neighbors as an expression of their opposition to unjust pretrial detention and an exercise of their religious faith.
- Representing the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brownsville, Texas in its opposition to the government's preparations for building a border wall on Diocese-owned property that would have separated the historic La Lomita Chapel from the community that worships there.

ICAP also served as lead counsel for [the homeless plaintiffs in *Grants Pass v. Johnson*](#), the criminalization of homelessness case before the Supreme Court last term, which received amicus support from a [wide range of faith organizations led by the Kairos Center](#), as well as from [the U.S. Conference for Catholic Bishops](#).

Ideally the "sensitive locations" litigation challenge will include a variety of plaintiffs, including denominations, regional denominational bodies, churches, and church leaders who can attest to concerns about arrests of undocumented congregants during worship services or other church activities and/or undocumented visitors receiving services (e.g., soup kitchens, food pantries, english classes) on church property. Note that it is not necessary that the plaintiffs be sanctuary churches or have any intent to become sanctuary churches.

We'd be grateful to talk with anyone in your circles who might be interested in exploring involvement in this effort (the sooner the better, given the indicators that the Trump Administration intends to rescind the sensitive locations policy immediately).

At this stage we ask that you share this only with trusted allies and partners.

If you or someone you know might be interested in being a plaintiff or otherwise supporting these efforts, please let us know.

Best,

Jim Simpson

Executive Director

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