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## SUPREME COURT REAFFIRMS RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS' RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR TEACHERS

***“The Supreme Court once again has recognized that judges are ill-equipped to decide who should teach in religious schools,” said Kim Colby, Director of Christian Legal Society’s Center for Law and Religious Freedom. “The decision of who should teach their students is best left to the religious schools themselves. Under the First Amendment, federal judges are not permitted to act as a school board for religious schools.”***

In a landmark 7-2 decision, the United States Supreme Court today held that religious schools are better equipped than government officials to decide who teaches religious values to the students in their classrooms. The Court reaffirmed its 2012 ruling in *Hosanna-Tabor Church and School v. EEOC*, 565 U.S. 171 (2012), which held that the First Amendment protects religious schools’ employment decisions as to who teaches their students.

Christian Legal Society filed an amicus brief arguing that broad deference to religious schools’ employment decisions regarding teachers is necessary to prevent the government from favoring certain religions over others. Deference to the schools’ decisions also avoids intrusive entanglement of courts in religious doctrine.

The brief was authored by Professor Thomas Berg and the [Religious Liberty Appellate Clinic](#) of the University of St. Thomas School of Law. The brief was joined by American Association of Christian Schools, Association of Christian Schools International, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, National Association of Evangelicals, and Queens Federation of Churches.

Reed Smith, the Center’s Director of Litigation, stated, “As the Court recognized, it is fundamental to religious freedom that religious organizations have extensive discretion when choosing their leaders. Teachers are leaders who help students live out and grow in their faith.”

Christian Legal Society’s amicus brief in the consolidated cases of *Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru* and *St. James School v. Biel* is available [here](#).

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***About Christian Legal Society:*** Christian Legal Society is a nationwide association of Christians dedicated to serving Jesus Christ through the practice and study of law, the defense of religious freedom, and the provision of legal aid to the poor. For more information, visit <https://www.christianlegalsociety.org/>.

***For More About Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru and St. James School v. Biel:***  
<https://www.clsreligiousfreedom.org/MorrisseyBiel>