

# **SUPREME COURT 2025-2026:** **Religious Liberty Cases to Watch**

## **ARGUED AT THE SUPREME COURT**

### ***Chiles v. Salazar* (No. 24-539):**

#### **Protecting compassionate counseling for transgender kids**

Recent years have seen an explosion in the number of children identifying as transgender. Many of these children have been led down a path of “gender transition”—enduring a regime of drugs, hormones, and surgeries that often results in profound regret and permanent health harms. The harms are so significant that 25 states and several European countries have banned or strictly limited gender transitions for children, advocating instead for compassionate counseling for their distress. Unfortunately, Colorado bans this compassionate approach, forcing therapists like Kaley Chiles to turn away children and families or risk losing their licenses and suffer crippling fines.

**Status:** Alliance Defending Freedom filed a petition for a writ of certiorari on behalf of Chiles at the Supreme Court in 2025, and the Court agreed to hear the case. Oral argument will take place on October 7, 2025. Becket filed a friend-of-the-court brief at the Supreme Court in support of Chiles, urging the Court to protect counselors’ ability to offer compassionate talk therapy to children experiencing gender dysphoria.

## **PETITIONS FOR CERTIORARI GRANTED**

### ***Landor v. Louisiana* (No. 23-1197):**

#### **Holding government officials responsible for violating prisoners’ religious freedom**

Damon Landor’s religious dreadlocks, a crucial aspect of his Rastafarian faith, were forcibly shaved by Louisiana prison officials while he was imprisoned. Despite suing for damages under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) after serving his time, both the trial court and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals denied his claims, stating that former prisoners cannot receive compensation for RLUIPA violations.

**Status:** Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP filed a petition for a writ of certiorari on behalf of Landor at the Supreme Court in 2024, and the Court agreed to hear the case. Oral argument will take place on November 10, 2025. Becket filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of Landor, urging the Justices to allow former prisoners to sue for damages under RLUIPA.



## ***First Choice Women's Resource Centers v. Platkin* (No. 24-781): Safeguarding religious ministries' vital care to women in need**

First Choice Women's Resource Centers is a pro-life, Christian ministry in New Jersey that offers free counseling, medical services, and material support to women facing unplanned pregnancies. In 2023, New Jersey tried to force First Choice to disclose how it applies its statement of faith, works with churches to support its ministry, relates to other pro-life organizations, and raises funds to support its ministry. First Choice is defending its ability to continue its religious ministry without government interference.

**Status:** Alliance Defending Freedom filed a petition for a writ of certiorari on behalf of First Choice at the Supreme Court in 2025, and the Court agreed to hear the case. Oral argument will take place in the fall. Becket filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of First Choice, urging the Court to protect the rights of faith-based ministries to access federal court and protect their religious governance from an overweening state investigation.

## ***West Virginia v. B.P.J.* (No. 24-43): Protecting religious institutions' ability to distinguish on the basis of biological sex**

West Virginia passed the Save Women's Sports Act to ensure that girls' athletic teams are based on biological sex—preserving fairness, safety, and equal opportunity for female athletes. A middle school student who identifies as transgender challenged the law, and the Fourth Circuit blocked it. West Virginia is now asking the Supreme Court to restore the state's ability to maintain sex-based teams in public schools.

**Status:** West Virginia filed a petition for a writ of certiorari at the Supreme Court in 2024, and the Court agreed to hear the case. On the same day, the Court also granted review in *Little v. Hecox*, a challenge to a similar law in Idaho. Becket plans to file a friend-of-the-court brief supporting West Virginia, highlighting how decisions like the Fourth Circuit's don't stop with sports teams. They can have far-reaching consequences for religious schools, religious healthcare providers, and other faith-based institutions to operate according to their beliefs about sex.

## **PETITIONS SEEKING SUPREME COURT REVIEW**



### ***Cathy Miller v. Civil Rights Department* (No. 25-233):**

#### **Protecting a Christian baker's freedom to create without government punishment**

Cathy Miller, a faithful Christian and owner of Tastries Bakery, has created custom wedding cakes and baked goods for over a decade. In 2017, a same-sex couple asked Miller to design a custom cake for their wedding—something she could not do because of her Christian beliefs about marriage. After Miller referred the couple to another baker who would design their cake, the couple filed a civil rights complaint against Miller. California has been prosecuting Miller in court ever since.

**Status:** After almost a decade of harassment from the state of California, in August 2025 Miller, with the help of Becket, asked the U.S. Supreme Court to step in and protect her ability to design custom wedding cakes in peace.

