



Client Statement

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Jake Estell's statement after oral argument in *BLinC v. University of Iowa*:

Good morning, my name is Jake Estell. I am president of Business Leaders in Christ, or "BLinC." We are a small student group at the University of Iowa that focuses on learning how to live our faith in the business world. I am grateful to be here representing BLinC to ask the court to end the University's discrimination against us.

Campuses are supposed to be places that encourage diversity of thought and culture. But we stand here today because that is no longer true at the University of Iowa. The University is treating us like second-class citizens because they don't like our religious beliefs or that we ask our leaders to share our faith.

BLinC is open to everyone, and we want anyone to feel welcome to join us. All we ask is the same rights as all other groups on campus to select leaders who embrace our mission. The University wouldn't force an environmental group to select a climate-change denier as its leader, or a Muslim group to select a Christian student as its leader, or a pro-choice group to have pro-life leaders. BLinC just wants the same right to select leaders who will actually affirm its beliefs.

We're proud to be Hawkeyes. We are hopeful that the court will stop the university from treating us as second-class citizens and let us back on campus.

Thank you.

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*Becket is a non-profit, public-interest law firm dedicated to protecting the free expression of all religious traditions and has a 100% win-rate before the United States Supreme Court. For over 20 years, it has successfully defended clients of all faiths, including **Buddhists, Christians, Jews, Hindus, Muslims, Native Americans, Sikhs, and Zoroastrians** (read more [here](#)).*