



Justice for Freedom

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It's sometimes difficult to adjudicate the outer boundaries of freedom of expression — for what it's worth, I prefer to stake as wide a claim as possible — but there shouldn't be any disagreement over the protection's core function: to ensure that citizens' natural right to publicly and freely comment on public affairs goes unmolested. But in a recent and egregious case covered by the Cato Daily Podcast, Colorado resident Tammy Holland was hauled into civil court not once but *twice* for taking out a series of newspaper ads regarding Common Core and encouraging her neighbors to educate themselves on the matter and the upcoming school board election.

According to the Institute for Justice — which is representing Holland and has a full summary of her case — almost any allegation of campaign finance impropriety in Colorado automatically results in a court case without any discretion from law enforcement. As IJ puts it, this system effectively gives would-be censors the benefit of the doubt, while putting the burden of proof on speakers. It's a monstrous and shameful inversion of how our political system is supposed to work.

In *By the People*, Charles Murray described the Institute for Justice as one of the models for his proposed "Madison Fund." If you can spare a few dollars, there are few worthier recipients of your money. I just made a small donation myself.