



## **Yes, you will work for me: Will high court hear First Amendment case?**

*Support is growing for photographers instructed by the state New Mexico Supreme Court to deny their faith by accepting photography jobs for same-gender union ceremonies.*

By: Charlie Butts - December 17, 2013

Elaine and Jonathan Huguenin told lesbian Vanessa Willock in 2006 they would not photograph her commitment ceremony in Albuquerque because of their religious beliefs. They were fined about \$6,700.

A complaint was filed and after seven years the case is now before the nation's high court, which must decide whether to hear what could be a landmark case.

"The First Amendment protects our freedom to speak or not speak without fear of government retaliation," says Alliance Defending Freedom attorney Jordan Lorence.

"All Americans should oppose unjust laws that force citizens under threat of punishment to express ideas against their will," says the ADF attorney.

A government that forces any American to create a message contrary to his or her own convictions "is a government every American should fear," Lorence warns.

The Cato Institute and several legal scholars have filed briefs favoring the Huguenin's.

A July Rasmussen poll found that 85 percent of Americans believe the couple, and any other in a similar situation, have the right to say, "No."

Now the U.S. Supreme Court is being asked to hear the case.