



## Fighting for 'right' in education

Bill Bumpas - OneNewsNow - 12/31/2010 12:15:00 PM



From the classroom, to the court room, to the court of public opinion, 2010 had its share of victories and losses for conservatives attempting to keep education in America from swinging further to the left.

### Christian Legal Society

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court turned away an appeal from the [Christian Legal Society](#) (CLS)

which sued to get funding and recognition from the University of California's Hastings College of the Law. CLS claims Hastings' policy [forces them to accept as voting members](#) and potential leaders, classmates who do not share their core religious beliefs.



Alliance Defense Fund attorney Jordan Lorence was disappointed that the court chose to affirm a policy that very few universities have. He said of the handful of law schools that have this policy, most of them require no discrimination based on religion.

"Groups that have nothing to do with religion -- environmentalist groups, homosexual groups, feminist groups, etc. -- they are allowed to kick out members who don't agree with their message," said Lorence. "But only the religious groups are the ones that are required to accept people who don't agree with their message."

In November, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decided, for procedural reasons, [not to allow the case to go down](#) to the district court for a trial, forcing CLS to reconsider its options.

### Arizona tuition tax credit program

The high court also heard arguments in a case regarding an Arizona school choice program. Arizona's scholarship tax credit program allows residents to claim a tax credit for donations to private organizations that provide scholarships to private schools. But [the American Civil Liberties Union argued it is unconstitutional](#) because some of the money goes to religious schools.



Andrew Coulson, director of the Cato Institute [Center for Educational Freedom](#), told OneNewsNow there is no problem with a religious individual giving to a religious scholarship fund and taking a tax deduction.

"Governments are not allowed to favor religion or to make choices that encourage religion, but individuals are certainly allowed to do so," he pointed out.

[Other supporting attorneys](#) said they felt confident, following the hearing, that the justices favor the tax credit program.

A decision on the program's constitutionality is expected to be reached before next summer.



### **[School must oblige transgender 6th-grader](#)**

A story about gender confusion made national headlines in late September when the Human Rights Commission in Maine ruled that a middle school was wrong to assign a separate bathroom to a boy who wants to live as girl, saying they should have allowed him to use the girl's bathroom. The parents of the child, who no longer attends school in the district, had filed a complaint to the commission.

Janice Crouse with [Concerned Women for America](#) stated that the focus should be on the boy being a child instead of pushing an agenda that puts unneeded burdens on teachers, parents, and children.

"Have we given any thought to the fact that these parents are going to have to deal with issues and these students are going to have to deal with issues that they certainly aren't emotionally ready to handle?" the CWA senior fellow wondered. "Nor are they ready to deal with them in any kind of constructive way."



### **[Barton likes new history curriculum standards](#)**

In an interview with OneNewsNow, an American history expert said the social studies curriculum approved this year by the Texas State Board of Education is the best he has seen since before World War II. [WallBuilders](#) founder and president David Barton was among the six advisers the board brought in to help rewrite the standards.

"You should present history as it happened -- the good, the bad, the ugly; the right, the left, the center; the anything else that is out there," argued the Christian historian. "And I think that's the final product that we got, despite all the media clamor to the otherwise. When you just read the standards, they're extremely balanced, extremely fair, and extremely thorough."

Because Texas is a large textbook market, other school districts around the country frequently buy the same educational materials.

### **[National PTA snubs PFOX - again](#)**



In June, a pro-family organization claimed that the Parents Teachers Association rejected its request to

exhibit at the national PTA convention. The group [Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays](#) (PFOX) said the PTA allows homosexual-rights groups to exhibit, but not PFOX because they do not comply with the PTA's Diversity and Inclusion policy.

PFOX executive director Regina Griggs says that's "extremely insulting." She asked: "Who could be more diverse than a group [with] parents and friends who have homosexual children, who also have ex-gay children, ex-gay friends, [and] who merely want to let you know that change is possible -- that there is hope for people with unwanted same-sex attractions?"

The national PTA, she added, has made a turn to the left.



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