




Brock Motor Company
 Family Owned and Operated Since 1925
 Hwy 58 & 41, Trenton (252) 448-2161
 www.brockmotorco.com

[Subscribe to Paper](#) [Online Edition](#)

Publish your Stuff
 Log in | Become a Member 
 Need Help? [Click Here](#)
 Sign Up for Newsletters/Alerts/Mobile



Search: Site Web powered by 

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Weather](#) | [Features](#) | [Obits](#) | [Interact](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Services](#) | [About Us](#)

[Jobs](#) [Autos](#) [Real Estate](#) [Classifieds](#)

[Home](#) > [Opinion](#)

- ▶ Search Online Inventory
- ▶ Search Auto Classifieds
- ▶ Research

[Share This](#) | [Print Story](#) | [E-Mail Story](#) | Font Size



Educational freedom heads to high court

Comments 0 | Recommend 0

June 01, 2010 9:06 AM

DAILY NEWS STAFF

Education reform advocates should have been encouraged on May 24 when the Supreme Court announced its intention to decide a case in which the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals called into question the constitutionality of a Arizona school-choice tax credit program that provides mostly disadvantaged students with scholarships to private schools.

Arizona's 13-year-old program is pretty straightforward. Private donors are given a dollar-for-dollar state income tax credit for contributions made to school-tuition organizations. These private, not-for-profit STOs distribute the money as scholarships to students interested in attending private schools, some of them secular and some religious.

Opponents of the program contend scholarship dollars are skewed too heavily to faith-based schools, and, thus, the program violates constitutional standards for such programs upheld by the Supreme Court, namely a 2002 decision that supported an Ohio-based education voucher program for needy families.

The usual suspects, including the American Civil Liberties Union, oppose the Arizona scholarship program. Paul Bender, a former dean of Arizona State University law school, is leading the charge for the ACLU, contending the scholarship program is unconstitutional because it redirects taxpayer funds to religious organizations.

The San Francisco-based 9th Circuit, generally considered the most liberal federal appellate court in the country, agreed, ruling that the Arizona school-choice program may not be constitutional because it provides public dollars to nonsecular institutions. The 9th Circuit, which ordered the case back to the trial court for a full hearing, missed the mark, as usual, and now the Supreme Court has stepped in. A ruling should come during the court's 2010-11 term, which starts in October.

The Institute for Justice, a libertarian public-interest law firm, argues that the program is constitutional and that arguments against it should be rejected because an identical challenge against the program failed before the Arizona Supreme Court in 1999. Like the current challenge, the Institute for Justice argued during the previous case that Arizona residents are free to contribute money to any number of STOs, including many which are nonreligious.

What the 9th Circuit, the ACLU and opponents of this program miss or choose to overlook is that the scholarship program is funded with private dollars, not public funds. Donations to the STOs in Arizona are much like tax-deductible contributions made to any charity, church or school. The Cato Institute's Andrew Coulson put it best: "No government money is spent under the tax credit program, and the tax credits are, themselves, available on an entirely religiously neutral basis."

Educational reformers should be energized by the Supreme Court's choice to step in and hear this case. The justices have a tremendous opportunity to rule again on the side of educational freedom.

Related Stories/Links

Other Articles in this Category

- [Educational freedom heads to high court](#)
- [Sales tax passed yet fundraising continues](#)
- [Grateful for VA clinic in Jacksonville and its staff](#)
- [America's legacy of selfless service](#)
- [Patriotism, courage never ceases to amaze](#)

Most Viewed Stories

- [Man drowns trying to save child](#)
- [2010 hurricane names](#)
- [Woman killed on side of road as her son watches](#)
- [Doctors defend Naval Hospital](#)
- [Police charge woman with killing her husband](#)

Most Commented Stories

- [Marines seeking troops' opinion on 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'](#)
- [Man drowns trying to save child](#)
- [Bear spotted in Brynn Marr neighborhood](#)
- [Mental health care intensely personal for Naval Hospital staff](#)
- [Onslow, Carteret schools deal with local funding gaps](#)

Most Recommended Stories

- [UPDATE: Marine in custody in connection to woman's death](#)
- [Sheriff's Office looking for missing woman](#)
- [Former chief deputy eyes sheriff's office](#)
- [Man drowns trying to save child](#)
- [Time flies by but memories remain](#)

Weather

CURRENT WEATHER
 Jacksonville, NC



Light Rain
 Temp. 73° F
 Humidity 93%
 Feels like 79
 Wind S at 10 mph
 Time 2:15 PM

Lottery

Facebook



[Details & forecast](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Internal Medicine & Geriatric Center @ ECMA

We provide healthcare services to all over 18 years old, as well as senior adults over 65 years old.

We provide Physician Home Visit program for qualified home bound patients. Come in to enjoy our comprehensive healthcare services.

Most insurance accepted.

25 Office Park Drive, Jacksonville 910-353-4878

Things to do in Jacksonville

[Events](#) [Dining](#) [Venues](#) [Movies](#)

Featured Events



1. Red, White and Blue Tour
2. Iconic Rock Band...
3. Foster Parenting...
4. New River Palooza
5. Holiday Craft Fair & Car...

[Click for More Events](#)

[Add Your Events](#)

Find an Event

Publish Your Stuff

[Log In](#) [Join Now](#) [Explore](#)



[you](#) [photos](#) [blogs](#) [forums](#) [explore](#)

[See archived 'Opinion' stories »](#)

Ads by Google

[Don't pay for school](#)

Get A Scholarship For Free. For How Much Do You Qualify?
ProgramAdvisor.com/Scholarships

[Find Grant Secrets](#)

File Early and Get Grants for Online College. Search Now.
EducationConnection.com/Grants

[Military Scholarships](#)

Up to \$50,000 in Education Benefits Free Info from Schools for GI Bill
www.Military.com/GIBill

[Courthouse Security](#)

Surveillance, Monitoring, CCTV and More. Learn How ADT® Can Help.
www.ADTBusiness.com/Government

Reader Comments

From the editor: Many of you have expressed concerns about some of the harsh anonymous comments from readers. To remedy that, we are introducing new features. You can create your own blog, publish your news and share your photos with the community. Once you fill out a simple form and leave a verifiable e-mail address, you can set up your profile page. It will display all of your contributions and allow you to track issues and easily connect with others.

We want our site to be a place where people discuss and debate ideas that foster stronger communities. We built this for you. Please take care of it. Tolerate broad thinking, but take action against obscene or hateful material. Make it a credible and safe place worth preserving and sharing.

Share your thoughts about this story

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

To leave a comment, you need to sign up.

[Sign up](#)

[Log in](#)

powered by Pluck

ADVERTISEMENT

Discover personal attention at over 10,000 offices.

[FIND ONE NOW ▶](#)

Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

[Poll](#)

[Directory](#)

[DOD Photo](#)

SUMMERTIME

What are your plans this summer?

- I'm going to hang out at the beach when I'm not working or in school.
- I plan to leave the area at least once.
- I'm going to see what ENC has to offer.
- I don't have any plans.

Enter The Code To Vote

231af

[Vote!](#)

[Things to do in ENC](#)

Ads by Google

[Courthouse Security](#)

Surveillance, Monitoring, CCTV and More. Learn How ADT® Can Help.
www.adtbusiness.com/government

[Need College Money?](#)

"I Got \$4,856 in Grants." Kim G.
Find Grants and Top Schools Now.
EducationConnection.com/Grants

[\\$15K Scholarship Giveaway](#)

Join Fastweb now to find out how to enter our \$15K Scholarship Contest!
www.FastWeb.com

[Court Reporting Schools](#)

Find Local Court Reporting Schools
Don't Miss Your Chance to Enroll.
www.CRschools.net

Search:

Web Site

[Search](#)

powered by

Advertising Info

Media Kit
Advertise with Us
Place An Ad
Yellow Pages

Archives

Archives
Story Archives
Obituary Archives
Photo Archives
Special Sections

Reader Services

E-mail Alerts
Home Delivery
Online Subscription
Report a Problem
Request a
Temporary Stop
Contact Us

Online Services

RSS Feeds
Newsletters / Alerts
Letters to the Editor
Submit News Tips
Contact the
Newsroom
Submit Your
Announcements
Newspapers in
Education
Buy Daily News
Photos

Related Sites

Havelock News
ENCToday
New Bern Sun
Journal
Kinston Free Press
Topsail Advertiser

encGuides

encSHOWS
encBRIDES
encNIE
encYELLOWPAGES

Copyright © 2010

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Advertising Info](#) | [Local Businesses](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Autos](#) | [Homes](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Classifieds](#)



Freedom Communications, Inc.