



The Alliance Defense Fund has been involved in hundreds of cases in defense of religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and traditional values. The stories below are just a small sampling of the ongoing battle to protect our religious liberty, reclaim what we have lost, and shape a future where religious freedom is affirmed.

### **THE CASE OF THE SLEEPLESS LAWYER**

Pastor Paul Curtis had rented a school to hold worship services but, less than ten days before the first meeting, the superintendent decided to not allow the church to meet there.

When Pastor Curtis asked that he could hold a church informational meeting instead, he was also told “no,” so he called the Alliance Defense Fund for help.

ADF senior counsel Jordan Lorence (who was working for an ADF allied legal organization at the time) called the school district and asked for a six-week grace period but they refused and ordered the church to vacate the school building immediately. There would be no negotiation.

ADF issued an emergency grant to the church so it could regain access to the public school for at least its initial worship service. Jordan Lorence took a red-eye flight to New York City to prepare the request for an injunction.

The school district’s attorney was surprised that someone would make the effort to challenge this policy and she allows the church to have the initial meeting.

### **THE CASE OF THE CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER**

Family Life Services (FLS) operated a successful Christian ministry in North Dakota. FLS used monies it received from a credit counseling service to fund a crisis pregnancy center, a maternity home, and an adoption agency. FLS’s guiding principle was “to promulgate the gospel of Jesus Christ...to minister to people in need...facing a crisis pregnancy.”

Unfortunately, the ministry’s trust funds were commingled with other accounts. Board oversight caught this error and steps were taken immediately to ensure that no funds were lost. The board also accepted the administrator’s resignation and no contracts were breached and no client was harmed. In fact, no client ever complained.

After this was all resolved, the North Dakota attorney general went to court to stop FLS and its ministries from operating. The trial court removed the board of directors, seized all of the assets, and appointed its own board of directors, effectively terminating the funding of the pro-life ministries.

ADF backed FLS’s appeal to the North Dakota Supreme Court – which ruled that the trial court’s “restructuring” violated FLS’s religious liberty and the Establishment Clause.