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Page 1 of 1

ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVE MARSHALL HAILS U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION AFFIRMING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY OF BUSINESS OWNER

Victory for Alabama and Coalition of States Supporting First Amendment Rights of Business Owner

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Steve Marshall hailed the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision Monday in favor of a Colorado business owner who declined to prepare a cake for a same-sex wedding based upon his religious beliefs. Alabama was one of 20 states that filed an amicus brief in September in support of the First Amendment rights of the business owner.

“This Supreme Court decision should send a strong message to activist courts and bureaucrats alike that Americans’ right to religious expression cannot be trampled and the Constitution cannot be ignored,” said Attorney General Steve Marshall.

“The Supreme Court’s 7-2 decision in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v Colorado Civil Rights Commission* is major a victory for the First Amendment right of religious expression in America,” Attorney General Marshall added. “The State of Colorado determined that baker Jack Phillips violated state law by declining to bake a wedding cake for a gay marriage. The Supreme Court held that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission violated Mr. Phillips’ First Amendment rights by acting with a ‘clear and impermissible hostility’ toward Mr. Phillips’ ‘sincere religious beliefs’ that marriage is ‘the union of one man and one woman.’”

“Justice Gorsuch said it best in his concurrence: ‘In this country, the place of secular officials isn’t to sit in judgment of religious beliefs, but only to protect their free exercise.’”

The September 7, 2017, multi-state amicus brief was filed by the attorneys general of Texas, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia and Wisconsin, and Governor LePage of Maine.

To view the Supreme Court ruling, click here: <https://bit.ly/2JfUZPt>

To view the amicus brief, click here: <http://bit.ly/2gOyZSa>

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