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**CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY APPLAUDS U.S. SUPREME COURT'S
RESPECT FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN *MASTERPIECE* CASE**

“Today, the Supreme Court struck a blow against hostility too frequently seen against people of faith. We thank Jack Phillips for his courage in defending religious freedom for all Americans.”
- Kim Colby, Director of the Christian Legal Society’s Center for Law & Religious Freedom

Today, Christian Legal Society and Americans nationwide celebrate with Jack Phillips in his victory before the nation’s highest Court. CLS applauds the Supreme Court’s 7-2 decision to protect Mr. Phillips and strike a blow against governmental hostility toward people of faith.

Mr. Phillips faced fines, heavy loss of business, and even threats against his physical safety for refusing to violate his conscience. He declined to create a wedding cake to celebrate a same-sex marriage ceremony for religious reasons. He stood strong in his faith and in his belief that religious freedom would be protected in America, and the U.S. Supreme Court correctly sided with him today.

The Court stated that “the religious and philosophical objections to gay marriage are protected views and in some instances protected forms of expression.” The Court further stated that “the [Colorado] Commission was obliged under the Free Exercise Clause to proceed in a manner neutral toward and tolerant of Phillips’ religious beliefs.” The Commission had not, and the Court ruled against its hostile treatment of Mr. Phillips’ religious beliefs, stating that the Commission’s decision against Mr. Phillips “showed elements of a clear and impermissible hostility toward the sincere religious beliefs motivating his objection.”

The Court’s decision today envisions a free and civil society in which all Americans have the right to live their lives according to their deepest beliefs and values. Like all other Americans, religious Americans have the right to live out their deepest beliefs and values in the public square – a right that every government official must respect.

Laying out a legal analysis that foreshadowed the Court’s analysis today, [Professor Douglas Laycock](#) and [Professor Thomas Berg](#) filed a friend-of-the-court [brief](#) on behalf of Christian Legal Society, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, National Association of Evangelicals, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Rabbinical Council of America, Queens Federation of Churches, and Center for Public Justice.
