February 1, 2017

Accommodation or Discrimination? A Debate on Religious Liberty, the First Amendment, and LGBT Rights

Time: 12:00pm
Location: Gittis 213, Kushner Classroom

Please join the Federalist Society in participating in this truly unique debate, as these advocates from both sides of Elane Photography debate their positions in the public forum.

In Elane Photography v. Willock, the Supreme Court of New Mexico considered whether photographer Elane Huguenin had the right to refuse service to a same-sex couple who wanted her to record their commitment ceremony. Representing Huguenin, Jordan Lorence argued that photography is an artistic expression, and that it would violate his client’s first amendment rights for the government to forcibly compel her to “communicate messages antithetical to her religious beliefs.” Representing Vanessa Willock, Professor Tobias Wolff argued that the case revolved around one fundamental principle: “Whatever service you provide, you must not discriminate against customers when you engage in public commerce.”

As senior counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom, Jordan Lorence’s work encompasses a broad range of litigation, with a primary focus on defending the First Amendment freedoms of public university students and professors. Lorence earned a J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1980 and received a B.A. in journalism from Stanford University in 1977.

A Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Professor Tobias Wolff writes and teaches in the fields of civil procedure and complex litigation, the conflict of laws, federal jurisdiction, and constitutional law. Wolff has served as counsel or counsel for amici curiae in many civil rights cases seeking equal treatment under law for LGBT people.

Wishbones Chicken will be served.