



AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY LAWSUITS: CHRONOLOGY

June 30, 2014

- Mar 23, 2010** Congress enacts The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (so-called “Obamacare”) which requires group health plans to cover women’s “preventive care,” leaving the definition of that term to HHS to decide through regulatory process; violations of the Act subject an employer who fails to provide all mandated coverage to annual fines of \$2,000 per employee, and \$100 a day, also per employee
- Aug 1, 2011** HHS defines “preventive services” as requiring group health plans, including student health plans, to include abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization and other contraceptive services free-of-charge; no conscience clause is offered and only places of worship are exempted
- Nov 22, 2011** AMU retains The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty as its legal counsel to fight Obamacare mandate
- Jan 20, 2012** HHS Secretary Sebelius authorizes a one-year “safe harbor” for AMU and others who object; a firestorm of controversy continues over proposed Obamacare mandate
- Feb 10, 2012** In a rare appearance in the White House Briefing Room, President Barack Obama seeks to assure Nation the final HHS regulations will protect religious liberty
- Feb 22, 2012** AMU sues HHS in the Middle District Court of Florida and alleges the mandate is unconstitutional and a violation of Federal law
- May 21, 2012** University of Notre Dame also files a lawsuit
- May 21, 2012** AMU discontinues offering health insurance to students after its insurance carrier notified AMU that it is required to pay all student claims for “preventive services”
- Aug 15, 2012** HHS again revises regulations but still excludes AMU from exempted group
- May 4, 2012** HHS files motion to dismiss AMU lawsuit, arguing final federal regulations have yet to be issued and therefore AMU’s claims aren’t “ripe”
- Feb 1, 2013** HHS issues yet another version of proposed regulations that includes additional, inconsequential modifications but no relief for AMU
- Mar 29, 2013** Florida Federal judge dismisses AMU’s lawsuit but permits AMU to refile if final regulations are objectionable
- Jun 28, 2013** HHS issues final regulations that continue to exclude AMU from exemption and require the University to violate its religious beliefs or face crippling fines
- Aug 29, 2013** AMU files a new Federal lawsuit in the Middle District of Florida
- Dec 11, 2013** Florida Federal judge formally suspends action on AMU lawsuit, awaiting the outcome in the Hobby Lobby case before the U.S. Supreme Court
- Jun 30, 2014** The U.S. Supreme Court rules in Hobby Lobby’s favor; AMU presses ahead with its lawsuit and calls upon HHS to conform its regulations to the High Court’s ruling