



Americans United for Separation of Church and State Orange County, California Chapter

Americans United for Separation of Church & State, Orange County Chapter

Attorney, David Kaloyanides

Freedom From Religion Foundation v. Chino Valley Unified School District - Protecting Schools from Establishment Clause Violations

Saturday, April 21st at 1:45 pm

Community Room, Irvine Ranch Water District¹
15500 Sand Canyon Ave. (at Waterworks), Irvine, CA 92618



The Chino Unified School District Board of Education consists of five elected Board Members. Four of these Board Members were either members of or affiliated with the Calvary Church of Chino Hills. The Calvary Church organization, and particularly the Chino Hills church, under the head pastor, Jack Hibbs, are part of a concerted, nationwide effort to push for Christian teaching and prayer in the public schools. Jack Hibbs works closely with the Alliance Defending Freedom; their agenda is to promote a distorted version of the Constitution and our history by asserting that the United States is a Christian nation.

Due to the decision in *Galloway v. Greece*, which allows for opening civic meetings with prayer, right-wing religious organizations took the Town of Greece decision as a way to insert religion into the public schools by having local school boards open their public meetings with prayer.

The Chino Valley Unified School District took its direction from Jack Hibbs and Calvary Chapel, and made prayer a regular part of the school board meeting. Two of the board members in particular took this even further using the meeting to proselytize and regularly read from the Bible. In November, 2014, the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc., took the lead along with 23 individual plaintiffs and sued the Board of Education for violating the Establishment Clause.

David J. Kaloyanides represented the FFRF in this important case. He has been practicing law in the federal courts for over 25 years. A graduate of Loyola Law School he has been lead trial counsel in over 300 federal cases and has worked as lead trial counsel for the American Humanist Association, and as lead trial and appellate counsel for the Freedom From Religion Foundation, Inc., in representing plaintiffs in First Amendment Civil Rights actions involving both Establishment Clause violations and Free Speech issues.

For more information:

www.au-oc.org, email: mail@au-oc.org or call 714-299-4551

¹ Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause nor activities of organizations which use the District's meeting rooms that are made available as a public service.