



Bishops of the Arizona Catholic Conference Statement on Brush & Nib Decision

September 16, 2019

We are grateful that the importance of religious liberty was recognized today by the Arizona Supreme Court in the case of *Brush & Nib Studio v. City of Phoenix*.

The case involves two Christian artists who only want to create art that is consistent with their artistic and religious beliefs. Today's ruling striking down a Phoenix law that had threatened their ability to do so by potential government coercion is, therefore, a positive development for religious liberty. After all, the freedom to practice one's religion is fundamental to our way of living and should never be reduced to a "freedom of worship" that limits these rights to the confines of church property.

As we have stated previously, the Catholic Church supports the human dignity of people of all faiths, and even those of no faith, while firmly opposing any forms of unjust discrimination. We consider ourselves blessed to live in a county that values such freedoms and respect for all people.

Thankfully, the reality still remains that Arizona has the ability to serve every person while making room for valid conscientious objection for the purposes of religious freedom.

Accordingly, we applaud today's ruling in the Brush & Nib case as a positive step forward in recognizing these inalienable rights.

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Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted
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Most Rev. James S. Wall
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