



FACT SHEET

Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Sebelius

ABOUT Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Sebelius

The owners of Conestoga Wood Specialties, the Hahns, are a practicing and believing Mennonite Christian family. They desire to run the company, a wholesale manufacturer of custom wood kitchen cabinet parts, in a manner that reflects their sincerely held religious beliefs, including their belief that God requires respect for the sanctity of human life. Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys and allied attorneys represent the Hahns in a federal lawsuit against the Obama administration over its abortion pill mandate. The mandate forces employers, regardless of their religious or moral convictions, to provide insurance coverage for abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization, and contraception under threat of heavy penalties by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services if the mandate's requirements aren't met. After the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit ruled in favor of the Obama administration, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case along with another case, *Hobby Lobby Stores v. Sebelius*.

CURRENT STATUS OF Conestoga Wood Specialties v. Sebelius AS OF 2/6/2014

Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys [filed their opening brief](#) at the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 10. [Fifty-nine friend-of-the-court briefs were filed](#) in support of Conestoga Wood Specialties and Hobby Lobby Stores by the end of January—outnumbering the number of briefs filed in support of the abortion pill mandate by nearly 3-1. The Obama administration's response brief is due Feb. 10, and Conestoga's reply is due March 10. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on March 25.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

- The freedom to live according to our faith and to honor God in our work.
- Freedom from the threat of crippling fines for resisting illegal government mandates.
- Freedom from government intrusion on a family business's private moral decisions.
- The free and full participation of people of faith in all areas of public life, including the marketplace.

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ABOUT Alliance Defending Freedom

Alliance Defending Freedom is an alliance-building, non-profit legal organization that advocates for the right of people to freely live out their faith.

ABOUT David Cortman

David A. Cortman serves as senior counsel and vice president of litigation with Alliance Defending Freedom. Cortman heads all direct litigation efforts to protect religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and marriage and the family. He has been practicing constitutional law for more than 17 years and has successfully litigated nearly 200 cases at every level, including recent victories at the U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts of appeal. He is admitted to the bar in Georgia, Florida, Arizona, and the District of Columbia. Cortman obtained his J.D. magna cum laude from Regent University School of Law.

ABOUT Matt Bowman

Matt Bowman serves as senior legal counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom at its Washington, D.C., Regional Service Center, where he is a key member of the Center for Life. Before joining Alliance Defending Freedom in 2006, Bowman clerked for several federal judges, including The Honorable Samuel A. Alito, Jr., at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit. He is admitted to the bar in Michigan, the U.S. Supreme Court, the District of Columbia, and numerous other federal courts. Practicing law since 2003, Bowman obtained his J.D. summa cum laude from Ave Maria School of Law.