

On Mon, Apr 12, 2010 at 2:21 PM, Douglas Mansfield <*****> wrote:

Sam, I'm happy to respond to your inquiry. As I read the Court's opinion, the use of the term "offense" simply relates to the Dennises' claim that the religious materials in Mr. Freshwater's classroom violated their constitutional rights. As I think you know, the Dennises are a religious family, but they believe -- as our Constitution provides -- that it's not appropriate for a teacher in a public school classroom to impose his or her own religious beliefs onto the students. The Dennises are by no means offended by religion; they are, however, upset by Mr. Freshwater's unconstitutional activities in the public school classroom and by the use of a high-voltage electrical device that left a burn in the shape of a cross on their son's arm. And so the record is absolutely clear on this point, the Dennises do not in any way begrudge Mr. Freshwater's faith, but they are greatly disturbed that their son's teacher would, in neglect of his own faith, disclaim any responsibility and denounce their son as dishonest. This case is not about faith or belief in religion; it is about a teacher who crossed the line and now won't accept any responsibility for doing so.

Douglas M. Mansfield, Esq.

Jones Day

P.O. Box 165017

Columbus, OH 43216-5017

direct (614) 281-3943

fax (614) 461-4198

From: S Stickle <*****>

To: *****

Date: 04/10/2010 11:18 AM

Subject: Media inquiry -- Dennis partial summary judgment

Douglas M. Mansfield,

I'm working on an article, for the website

www.accountabilityinthemedia.com, regarding the recent partial summary judgment in JOHN DOE, et al., v. MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION, et al. There are a couple points I hope you will be able to clarify for me:

Judge Gregory Frost wrote, "ZD was exposed to Freshwater's Bible, the box of Bibles, and the Ten Commandments postings, something he could not avoid, and Plaintiffs claim offense at such exposure." In the court documents I reviewed, I was unable to find where the Dennis family had used the word "offense" or "offended" to describe their reaction to the above mentioned items. Is Frost's characterization correct of the Dennis family's reaction as being "offense at such exposure"?

If yes, are there any additional reasons for the Dennises being offended beyond their belief that it is unconstitutional for the above mentioned items to have been in John Freshwater's classroom?

Sincerely,

Sam Stickle

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