



"... let us run with endurance the race God has set before us." — Hebrews 12:1



## THE FLORAL ARTIST'S STORY: Faithful in the midst of the storm

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Barronelle Stutzman's perseverance in her ongoing struggle for religious freedom is an outstanding example of endurance under pressure.

Barronelle is a floral artist ... and a grandmother. You'd never expect to see someone like her at the center of a firestorm. But she is being sued both professionally and personally by the Washington State Attorney General and the ACLU.

If she loses, the ACLU could take practically everything she owns — her business, her home, and her life's savings. Everything.

## Why has Barronelle been targeted?

It all began when a longtime friend and client, Rob Ingersoll, asked Barronelle to create custom floral arrangements for his same-sex wedding.

Barronelle had lovingly served this client for many years. But she affirms the biblical teaching, as people across the globe and throughout history have, that marriage is the sacred union of a man and a woman.

She could not help celebrate her friend's wedding because it would violate her convictions. Out of kindness, and because they had been friends for many years, she referred him to other excellent florists in the area.

## The threat to Barronelle's religious freedom is a threat to *your* religious freedom

After Rob's partner told Facebook friends about Barronelle's decision, she began receiving hate mail, angry phone calls, and even death threats. The Washington State Attorney General learned about the social media post and decided to sue Barronelle and use his massive resources to make an example of her. In 2015, a state trial court ruled against her.

ADF appealed to the Washington State Supreme Court. After much anticipation, that court also ruled against her in February 2017, punishing her for peacefully operating her business consistently with her faith.

We have said all along that we would fight on behalf of Barronelle all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary. And so, we asked the Supreme Court to consider Barronelle's case.

## You can help Barronelle finish strong

The cost of preparing for and litigating cases like this can be great. That's particularly true here, because both the state and the ACLU have filed lawsuits. We have appealed Barronelle's case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Christians face the prospect of being silenced. **But we must take a stand to defend Barronelle and others like her.**

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