

February 2026

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Religious freedom has been one of the hallmarks of Southeast Law Institute's history. Through the years, we have handled many cases and resolved many situations involving the burdening of religious freedom for churches, ministries and individuals. The freedom to evangelize and to speak on values and issues should not be threatened or diminished. This month's Educational Update addresses a very unfortunate event in Minnesota. A church was invaded by anti-ICE protesters. We hope this is not a sign of things to come, but we are wary.

Such situations are more easily prevented in the legislative context. For example, SLI wrote and supported the Alabama Religious Freedom Amendment. It put into Alabama Constitutional Law the safeguards for protecting religious freedom. If there are religious freedom issues on the horizon, we continue to be ready to address those.

With the beginning of the legislative session, we will make ourselves available to legislators and lobbying organizations to review bills and provide unbiased expert advice. We do this at no charge.

We know there are many good bills possible for passage this year. As an election year, we expect the session to be somewhat truncated. We are hopeful members will be interested in passing good legislation and not dwelling on divisive things, such as gambling.

Thank you for your continuing support. Please let us know if we may be of assistance to you or someone you know who has questions or issues about protecting religious rights.

With personal regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

A. Eric Johnston

AEJ/mm