



## What's Happening



### The news for the secular community from the Supreme Court has not been good.

The [case against Little Sisters of the Poor](#) allowed the Trump administration rule to stand that denies contraception to women under their insurance plan based on any belief so stated by any corporation. It is a very dangerous case allowing so called “belief” to trump the law and equality.

In the [Our Lady of Guadalupe School case](#), the Supreme Court also said that the ministerial exception swallows up the rule of non-discrimination against any staff of a religious institution that wants to fire a person – in one case after a person got cancer and another other because she was too old. This means that even though one might not have religious duties at a religious school (e.g. a janitor), the school can fire a person and non-discrimination laws won't apply.

In the [Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue case](#), the Supreme Court said that states with private school "voucher" programs are mandated to give also give those vouchers to religious schools. This means taxpayers can be forced to pay for religious education with which they do not agree. (The solution, of course, is no vouchers at all; we must support our public schools.)

**You can see where this is going – religious institutions get all the benefits of certain laws but don't have to abide by others, particularly those that prohibit discrimination.** They get to have their cake and eat it too.

Statewide, we are continuing to work on many violations in schools by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. We have recently reached an agreement with Benjamin Franklin Charter School and Dysart Unified School District that they will no longer violate the Constitution. We also dodged a bullet when kids in Camp Verde were smarter than their parents and forced the cancellation of a bible class due to lack of interest.

You can help us continue to fight to shut down Arizona cases like this before they reach

## Happening Tomorrow

# MAKE AMERICA CONSTITUTIONAL AGAIN RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ON THE BALLOT

### Legislating Religious Freedom



**Representative Huffman (CA)**  
Co-Chair, Congressional  
Freethought Caucus

**Representative Raskin (MD)**  
Co-Chair, Congressional  
Freethought Caucus

**Representative Salman (AZ)**  
State Representative

**Representative Smith (FL)**  
State Representative



**Greg Epstein**  
Humanist Chaplain  
at MIT and Harvard

**Ann Druyan**  
Writer/Producer/Director  
"Cosmos: Possible Worlds"

### Faith in Humanity: A Conversation with Greg Epstein and Ann Druyan

### Christian Nationalism and White Supremacy



**Dr. Robert Jones**  
Founder and CEO, Public  
Religion Research Institute

**Ashton P. Woods**  
Chair, Black Humanist  
Alliance and Founder of  
Black Lives Matter Houston

**Dr. Monica Miller**  
Associate Professor of  
Religion and Africana  
Studies at Lehigh University



**SECULAR  
DEMOCRATS  
OF AMERICA**

**Tuesday, August 18, 1-3 pm CT**

[www.buff.ly/3aj8kob](http://www.buff.ly/3aj8kob)



Join the [Secular Democrats of America](#) (SDA) for its inaugural virtual event at the 2020 DNC Convention. Hear from Members of the Congressional Freethought Caucus, candidates, and activists who are defending the separation of church and state, mobilizing nonreligious voters, and advocating for religious freedom for people of all faiths and none.

Arizona's own Representative Athena Salman (D-26) will be one of many speakers talking about legislating religious freedom and mobilizing the secular vote for the 2020 general election.

[Learn More and Register](#)

## More Events



### **Awakening to Change: An Action-Focused Series on Anti- Racism**

**Sundays Aug. 16th, 23rd, and 30th  
2:00 - 4:00**

Do you want to “get it right” instead of just “being right”?

Are you willing to get uncomfortable, sit in that discomfort, and turn it into action?

Do you want to learn more about the systemic racism on which our country was built, and how to challenge the structures within which we live and work?

If you answered "YES" to these questions, consider registering for this 3-part course. [Click here for more information](#)

### **Susan Sackett and Hal Saferstein**

**Sunday 8/23 10:00 AM**

Humanist Society for Greater Phoenix is hosting a fun chat with two pillars of their organization in order to get to know them, HSGP history, and Humanism better.

Secular AZ Board Chair Zenaido Quintana will co-host the interview. Join them on Zoom or YouTube [here](#).



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