



WICNSIN FAMILY COUNCIL  
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty



## Church Connection March 2017

### Strengthening, Preserving & Promoting Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Liberty

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*And David said...Is there  
not a cause?*

I Sam. 17:29

*He hath shewed thee,  
O man, what is good;  
and what doth the LORD  
require of thee, but to do  
justly, and to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with  
thy God?*

Micah 6:8

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### Mark Your Calendar!

WFC presents, "2017:  
What Now?" with  
Julaine Appling,  
Thurs., Mar. 16, 6-8 p.m.  
Tula's Cafe, Rhinelander.

Thursday, March 23  
WFC's **Day at the  
Capitol**

Sign up now for  
this opportunity to  
connect with your state  
legislators, learn about  
the heritage of our state  
Capitol, participate in  
a Q&A with Julaine  
Appling and more!  
Space is limited. Lunch  
is included.

To register for an event,  
call 888-378-7395, or  
visit [wifamilycouncil.org](http://wifamilycouncil.org).

### Standing Up for All the Anyones

**“If** they can do this to me, they can do it to anyone.”  
That’s what 72-year-old Christian grandmother and creative professional Barronelle Stutzman said in a news interview.

Barronelle was referring to the state of Washington coming after her in a no-holds-barred fashion when in 2013 she graciously declined to use her God-given creative gift to beautify the wedding ceremony of two men.

Barronelle is a florist. Over the years she had done quite a bit of business with Rob Ingersoll. In fact, Barronelle says, *“Rob Ingersoll and I have been friends since very nearly the first time he walked into my shop all those years ago. There was never an issue with his being gay, just as there hasn’t been with any of my other customers or employees. He just enjoyed my custom floral designs, and I loved creating them for him.”*

The rub came when Rob asked Barronelle to do the flowers for his same-sex wedding. After what she thought was a kind refusal and explanation about her belief that God designed marriage as an exclusive relationship between one man and one woman, Rob seemed fine; and he and Barronelle hugged before he left the shop. Barronelle thought their friendship would continue—until she was charged with violating Washington State’s anti-discrimination laws. That began years of legal wrangling through every level of state court.



Barronelle Stutzman, center. Used by permission.

In 2015 the Washington Attorney General (AG) offered to dismiss the lawsuit if Barronelle would pay \$2,001 and give up her religious freedom. By this time the case had expanded beyond going after Barronelle’s business—Arlene’s Flowers—and now included targeting her personal assets (home, savings and retirement).

This courageous woman responded to the AG saying, *“Your offer reveals that you don’t really understand me or what this conflict is all about. It’s about freedom,*  
*continued on back*

## Pray...

- For “all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” 1 Tim. 2:2
- That the US Supreme Court will take Barronelle Stutzman’s case and will overturn the ruling of the Washington State Supreme Court
- For the work and financial needs of Wisconsin Family Council

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“Conscience is the most sacred of all property...”  
~James Madison

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The first amendment to the US Constitution guarantees the “free exercise” of religion. This first article in the Bill of Rights guarantees us the free practice of our religion, whether public or private.

To support Barronelle Stutzman’s legal defense visit [www.adflegal.org](http://www.adflegal.org)



“Only action changes the world.”

*not money. I certainly don't relish the idea of losing my business, my home, and everything else that your lawsuit threatens to take from my family, but my freedom to honor God in doing what I do best is more important.... You chose to attack my faith and pursue this not simply as a matter of law, but to threaten my very means of working, eating, and having a home....”*

Last November, the Washington State Supreme Court heard oral arguments in Barronelle’s case. It handed down its decision on February 16, 2017. The court unanimously agreed with the lower courts that Barronelle was guilty of illegally discriminating against a protected class of citizens—homosexuals. Now this floral artist, a member of a Southern Baptist Church, who wants only to be obedient to her Lord’s teachings, stands to lose her business and all her personal assets. She is also on the hook for the ACLU’s attorney fees!

Our friends at Alliance Defending Freedom have represented Barronelle throughout this battle and will continue to do so as she is now petitioning the US Supreme Court to take her case.

We cannot afford to miss what is happening here. The State of Washington wants to make Barronelle Stutzman an example. They seemingly want to crush this brave woman under their heel so that others who believe as she does will fear to stand up for what they believe. This court and others, in defiance of the US Constitution’s religious freedom declaration, are very willing to be complicit in this bullying and bold-faced intimidation.

This ruling shows that those who support a liberal, progressive agenda will stop at nothing to achieve their goals. In particular, they seek to silence those who stand in their way. Often that is Christians who desire to live out their beliefs 24/7 in their homes, their businesses, and in all public places.

Our religious freedom is at stake. As Barronelle said, *“If they can do this to me, they can do it to anyone.”* May God grant Barronelle continued grace and courage as she stays in the battle on behalf of all the other “anyones.”

## About Wisconsin Family Council

*Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving & promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.*

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