19-348 ST. JAMES SCHOOL V. BIEL

DECISION BELOW: 911 F.3d 603

LOWER COURT CASE NUMBER: 17-55180

QUESTION PRESENTED:

The First Amendment's Religion Clauses forbid government interference in a religious group's selection of its ministerial employees. The federal courts of appeals and state courts of last resort have long agreed that the key to determining ministerial status is whether an employee performed important religious functions. This Court's unanimous 2012 ruling in *Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church & School v.* EEOC was consistent with that existing analytical consensus, and other circuits and states since 2012 have continued to rely on it. Yet the Ninth Circuit has now twice ruled that, under *Hosanna-Tabor*, important religious functions alone can never suffice-those functions must always be accompanied by considerations such as a religious title or religious training in order to demonstrate ministerial status.

The question presented is:

Whether the Religion Clauses prevent civil courts from adjudicating employment discrimination claims brought by an employee against her religious employer, where the employee carried out important religious functions.

CONSOLIDATED WITH 19-267 FOR ONE HOUR ORAL ARGUMENT

PRESS RELEASE OF MARCH 16, 2020
IN KEEPING WITH PUBLIC HEALTH PRECAUTIONS RECOMMENDED IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19, THE SUPREME COURT IS POSTPONING THE ORAL ARGUMENTS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR THE MARCH SESSION.

PRESS RELEASE OF APRIL 13, 2020
RESCHEDULED FOR ORAL ARGUMENTS BY TELEPHONE CONFERENCE. THE JUSTICES AND COUNSEL WILL ALL PARTICIPATE REMOTELY.

CERT. GRANTED 12/18/2019