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Press Statement - Allred v. Cobb County

Cary S. Wiggins
Wiggins Law Group
Suite 401
260 Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone: (404) 659-2880
Facsimile: (404) 659-3272
cary@wigginslawgroup.com
www.wigginslawgroup.com

When I received a phone call from Ms. Gloria Allred, one of our country's premiere civil rights attorneys, I thought, 'Well, this is neat.' Ms. Allred told me that she had a civil rights matter, and asked if I would be interested in reviewing it.

As she began explaining what had happened, to my surprise, I realized that Ms. Allred was the potential client.

Let me say: As an attorney who focuses his practice on First Amendment issues, it is an honor to represent any client in what is a pure speech case. It is not at all easy to be a civil rights plaintiff. But the honor here is especially deep where my client is an iconic attorney who has pioneered so many noble and legal causes.

This case, I believe, is an important one because it involves government censorship. The Cobb Energy Centre is a beautiful, world-class facility. I have been to many great performances in that theater. Every law-abiding citizen should have access to it.

When the government decides who can attend a public performance in a public venue -- based on their point of view -- there is a problem. When the government allows the public performer to decide who can watch his show in that public venue, the problem is exacerbated. And when the government threatens to arrest anyone who that public performer thinks should be excluded because of their point of view, the problem is intolerable from a constitutional perspective.

And that's why we are here today.