

U.S. Supreme Court Case Essay

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### **Introduction**

The decisions by the United States supreme have given rise to a good historical background. The crucial verdicts have led to the end of racial discrimination, child labor, and the need to keep firearms out of schools. However, not all cases can be heard by the Supreme Court. The court normally receives over 10, 000 petitions every year, but only hears eighty of them. The Supreme Court has a guideline that they follow when deciding which case to hear. The paper discusses factors that the Supreme Court considered when taking the case on same-sex marriage. The Supreme Court hears important cases that involve unique issue. The issues may include social challenges that affect the majority of citizens or election results disputes that involve the interest of the entire World (Lupu & Tuttle, 2010). Same-Sex marriage was a highly unusual issue that every American wanted to be clear about. The situation affected all the state across the United State and could not be decided on by the lower state courts.

### **Cutter v. Wilkinson Case**

Cutter v. Wilkinson Case was heard before the Supreme Court on 21st March 2005 and decided on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005<sup>1</sup>. The parties involved in the case include Cutter and others (plaintiffs), these were the former and current inmates of the institutions controlled by the Ohio department of rehabilitation and correction and are engaged in the untraditional religious sects and Wilkinson, the prison official. Cutter v. Wilkinson Case involved substantial difficulty by prisoners against the rehabilitation and corrections director in Ohio. The final decision of the court upheld the RLUIPA Act. (Lupu & Tuttle, 2010). The court established that in allowing religious groups to challenge ay unfair or unequal accommodations, the Religious Land Use and

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Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000 (RLUIPA) was not in violation of any of the First amendment clauses (Jenkins et al., 2005).

A facial challenge was brought against the RLUIPA Act of 2000<sup>2</sup> arguing that it advances religion in a manner that is inappropriate, and which undermines the First Amendment's Establishment Clause. The case was at first heard by a district court and Cutter was granted relief. However, an appeal was filed at the Court of Appeal and a further scrutiny of the evidence revealed that the RLUIPA Act indeed violates the establishment clauses (Lupu & Tuttle, 2010). The earlier decision by the district court was duly reversed. The case was thereafter taken to the Supreme Court where the final decision was made. Typically, the supreme court only hears cases within the central court's jurisdiction which mostly concerns issues stipulated within the federal law. Any case that involves only a state issue will remain in the state court system. The supreme court of that state will be the final decision point. The same-sex-marriage was an issue that existed within the federal law and it was also a motion passed in the Congress making it a crucial issue.

The supreme court decision as a unanimous decision penned down by Justice Ginsburg and supported with a concurring opinion from Justice Thomas. The ruling, which inclined towards the prisoners, was to the effect that, on facial observation, the RLUIPA Act of 2000 made an accommodation which was in conformity with the First Amendment Clauses. The Judges further asserted that the improper implementation and enforcement of the RLUIPA may create significant constitutional problems in the form of religious prisoners receiving favored treatment or an imbalance between security concerns and religious activities.

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Wilkinson brought a facial challenge to the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000

The ruling in the case continues to impact American inmates today. The decision reached by the Supreme Court Judges, religious accommodations need not be backed by the secular entities. Cases that are disregarded by the lower courts, such as same-sex marriages, are usually considered by the supreme court. In the case of same-sex marriages, the controversies elicited within both the law-making domain and the general social system necessitated the need for the Supreme Court to step in and decide on the final decisions.

In conclusion, the court ruling in the above case have impacts on other related cases in the United States, in most cases, when there is ruling on some other similar cases in the lower courts, a lot of references is always made to determine the ruling processes. Additionally, after the ruling, there were several appeals from other ongoing cases with a similar approach. The court ruling in the case of Cutter v. Wilkinson impacted the interpretation and enforcement of different laws and how those laws can be applied or enforced in different cases<sup>3</sup>, both in the lower courts and in the supreme courts. Personally, the court ruling, in this case, has not impacted me but it has affected different people whose relatives have been having cases in courts.

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Cutter v. Wilkinson impacted the interpretation and enforcement of different laws and how those laws can be applied or enforced in different cases

## References

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