

# **STUDENT WINS FREE** **SPEECH SETTLEMENT**

-- A Former Student At Missouri State --

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University has won a legal settlement after she was formally punished for refusing to sign a letter supporting homosexual adoption.

Emily Booker, who graduated from the university last May, faced intense interrogation from an ethics panel for more than two hours because her instructor accused her of the highest level of grievance an individual can bring against a student at the university.

Booker's social work class was assigned a project promoting homosexual foster homes and adoption, which required students to write and sign a letter to the Missouri legislature in support of homosexual adoption, according to Alliance Defense Fund, which filed the complaint on Booker's behalf.

During the interrogation, ethics panel members reportedly asked Booker personally invasive questions such as "Do you think gays and lesbians are sinners?" and "Do you think I am a sinner?"

"The university is supposed to be the marketplace of ideas, and professors should be tolerant of the opinions of Christian students as well as those of non-Christian students," David French, ADF's senior legal counsel, said in a news release Oct. 30. "But at Missouri State University, officials have singled out a student for punishment simply because she refused to write and sign a letter to the state legislature supporting homosexual adoption."

According to the settlement, Booker's academic record will be cleared, she will be paid cash for her attorney's fees and her tuition will be waived for graduate school, according to The Springfield News-Leader newspaper in Missouri. The professor who caused the problem has been put on non-classroom duties for the rest of the semester.