

# Rampant Rise of Education Discrimination for Christians

May 12, 2014 | [Christine Pasciuti](#)

When Brandon Jenkins, a bright and promising applicant for entry into the radiation therapy program at Maryland's Community College of Baltimore County, received a notice informing him that he was not selected for the fall 2013 term after completing his exam and interview process, he inquired further.

Jenkins had exceeded the minimum requirements for entry into the program and planned on reapplying for the next term. When he followed up with CCBC staff members to find out why he was not being admitted, he was told that he was not selected because, among other reasons, his chosen field is "not the place for religion."

During his interview process with a five-person panel, Jenkins responded to the question, "What is the most important thing to you?" with the reply, "My God."

The director and coordinator of radiation therapy, Adrienne Dougherty, told Jenkins: "I understand that religion is a major part of your life and that was evident in your recommendation letters, however, this field is not the place for religion."

She further stated, "We have many patients who come to us for treatment from many different religions and some who believe in nothing at all. If you interview in the future, you may want to leave your thoughts and beliefs out of the interview process."

The ACLJ (American Center for Law and Justice) is suing the university, asking for an injunction against it, demanding admittance for Jenkins into the program, and for damages to be paid to him for unplanned expenses he incurred while believing he would be a full-time student. As a result of being denied entry, he was forced to restart his business.

ACLJ Senior Counsel David French told the [Christian Post](#) that Dougherty's comments were both "flatly illegal" and "bigoted," noting his personal belief that the question posed to Jenkins – "What is most important in your life" – is not an academic question.

"It's not related to the radiation therapy program," he said. "They asked a question that went far beyond the bounds of the academic program itself, and they got an honest answer, from a Christian, about what's most important to him; and then they discriminated against him on that basis. It's absurd."

Describing Jenkins as a "high-character individual" and "model citizen", French argued, "Under what circumstance would answering that God is the most important thing in his life mean that he would be unable to treat people from other religions or from no religion? That was an assumption on the college's part and had no basis on anything Jenkins said at any point during the interview process."

French told CP that in all the years he's been litigating religious liberty cases, never has he encountered one like Jenkins,' where a university denies admission specifying an applicant's religion as one of the reasons.

The Bill of Rights, contained in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Advocates for the preservation of religious freedoms must constantly stay one step ahead of the rampant upswing in these types of discrimination cases, and like the ACLJ, must tackle the blatant distortions, abuses and misuses of the law before legal precedence is set, which would further release a floodgate of education discrimination incidents against Christians.

In another case back in 2006, pro-life associate professor Mike Adams applied for promotion to full professorship at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. His credentials included three teaching awards (one was Faculty Member of the Year) and more published peer-reviewed articles than most of his colleagues. Yet Adams was not only denied a promotion, but UNCW refused to provide a written explanation.

Adams believes that it was because he happens to be an evangelical Christian and a popular conservative author at Townhall.com. He is known for not mincing his words, particularly in his attacks on abortion, which can be delivered in a mocking and satirical manner.

More than seven years after Adams filed a lawsuit against the University of North Carolina-Wilmington for religious and political discrimination, he finally won his case in March. After years of litigation, a jury in a U.S. District Court concluded that, "... the University of North Carolina Wilmington retaliated against Dr. Adams by denying him a promotion in 2006 and they retaliated against him because they did not like the views he expressed in his books and columns and speeches," according to Adams's lawyer, Travis Barham. "Basically, they didn't like what he said in his own time," Barham told a local news station.

Meanwhile, up north in Canada, yet another controversial and potentially pivotal case is brewing for Trinity Western University, in Langley, B.C...

*To read this article in its entirety, go to:*

<http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/2014/May12/121.html>