



## ***FACT SHEET McCullen v. Coakley***

### ***ABOUT McCullen v. Coakley***

On Nov. 13, 2007, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick signed into law S.B. 1353, which created a 35-foot “buffer” zone to restrict pro-life advocates from talking with people entering abortion clinics. ADF-allied attorney Michael DePrimo together with ADF attorneys filed suit in federal court against the new law on behalf of pro-life advocates, alleging that the law violated their First Amendment rights.

### ***CURRENT STATUS OF McCullen v. Coakley AS OF 5/4/09***

In August, a federal judge denied a facial challenge to the “buffer zone” law. The pro-life advocates have appealed the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 1st Circuit. The court will hear oral arguments at a hearing scheduled for May 5.

### ***FOCUS OF HEARING – WHAT IS AT STAKE?***

The constitutional right to free speech for pro-life advocates who seek to speak with women contemplating abortion before they enter abortion clinics. The government cannot create censorship zones where the First Amendment does not apply in order to silence a particular viewpoint.

### ***CONTACT***

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### ***ABOUT ADF***

ADF is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. Launched in 1994, ADF employs a unique combination of [strategy, training, funding, and litigation](#) to protect and preserve religious liberty, the sanctity of life, marriage, and the family.

### ***ABOUT Michael DePrimo***

Michael DePrimo is an ADF-allied attorney who has argued numerous cases before federal courts of appeal and state supreme courts on behalf of individuals whose constitutional rights have been violated by government officials. He is licensed to practice law in the states of Connecticut, Mississippi, and Virginia. In addition, he is admitted to most federal courts of appeal and the United States Supreme Court. He received his law degree from Regent University School of Law in 1989.