



Adams v. School Board of St. Johns County, Florida, 968 F.3d 1286 (11th Cir.)

Topics Covered: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Rights

Outcome: Very Favorable

Issue

The issue in this case is whether a school board's decision to deny a transgender student access to the bathroom facility that matches his gender identity violates Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which generally prohibits discrimination in education facilities on the basis of sex, and the Equal Protection Clause of the United States Constitution.

AMA Interest

The AMA opposes policies preventing transgender individuals from accessing basic human services and public facilities in line with their gender identities, including, but not limited to, the use of restrooms.

Case Summary

Drew Adams, a high school junior, is transgender and identifies as male. Drew is only permitted to use three gender neutral restrooms on his high school campus, two of which are located in a separate administrative building from his classes. Drew asserts he misses significant amounts of class time and experiences distress from not being able to use the boys' restroom facilities. Drew sued the county school board for an injunction, based, primarily, on Title IX.

The Eleventh Circuit affirmed the district court decision, which held that the school's policy of instructing a transgender student to use the bathroom associated with the sex assigned at birth violated Title IX of the Education Amendments Act – which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

AMA Involvement

The AMA, along with other medical societies, joined amicus briefs to support Drew. The brief pointed out the deleterious medical effects on transgender students who are prevented from using bathroom facilities in line with their gender identities.

United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit brief

United States District Court brief