

# NEWS

LITIGATION DEPARTMENT

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WIGGIN AND DANA

*Counsellors at Law*

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## Decision in Postal Service Establishment Clause Case

*Wiggin and Dana Second Circuit Win Stands*

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a petition for *certiorari*, and thereby let stand, an August 2009 decision of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in *Cooper v. U.S. Postal Service*, an important Establishment Clause case litigated by Wiggin and Dana's Appellate and Complex Legal Issues Practice Group in conjunction with the ACLU of Connecticut.

The case involved a church that operates a local post office under contract with the U.S. Postal Service in Manchester, Connecticut. The church had displayed proselytizing religious materials where it was providing postal services in the post office, and the court held that the religious displays violated the Establishment Clause.

The church asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decision, arguing that Second Circuit should have held that the local residents of downtown Manchester lacked standing to maintain the suit.

The case will now go back to the district court to fashion a remedy requiring the church to confine any religious displays to a clearly demarcated area that is separate from the area in which postal services are provided.

Wiggin and Dana attorneys Aaron Bayer and Sabrina Houlton filed a brief in the U.S. Supreme Court opposing the petition seeking the Court's review.

*Wiggin and Dana is a full service law firm, with 138 attorneys, serving clients throughout the world from offices in Connecticut, New York and Philadelphia. For more information on the firm, visit our web site at [www.wiggin.com](http://www.wiggin.com)*

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