

# The case for Illinois Bible colleges

On behalf of the Illinois Bible College Association, Mauck & Baker has filed a federal lawsuit against the Illinois Board of Higher Education ("IBHE"). The IBHE prevents Illinois Bible colleges from operating and granting degrees unless their teaching, faculty, facilities and curriculum are approved by the state. We believe religious communities should be free to determine the standards and criteria necessary to complete a degree for a ministry vocation without governmental oversight.

Our lawsuit argues restrictions against Illinois Bible colleges are in violation of the Establishment Clause and the Illinois Religious Freedom Restoration Act. Dayspring Bible College and Seminary, Province Baptist College, CLUB, United Faith Christian and Bible student Leigh Pietsch are all plaintiffs and seek to provide affordable Christian degrees to college students.

Friends, this is a battle worth fighting and worthy of your support. Bible schools in Texas filed a similar lawsuit in 2004. Ultimately the Texas Supreme Court, based on religious liberty principle, ruled that Texas had over-regulated those schools and in-

validated much of the Texas regulatory scheme. As a result, 18 new Bible Colleges have opened in Texas in just ten years.

Would God want such flourishing of biblical education in Illinois? Will you help toward that end with finances? Will you pray and contribute a two-day fast to help win this spiritual battle?



Litigation, such as this, against a Goliath like Illinois can be quite expensive and take a long time. Our clients have limited resources and are contributing according to their ability. Alliance Defending Freedom has made a grant to cover part of the cost and we hope to recover some

of the litigation costs from Illinois if we win.

Meanwhile, if you wish to support these schools and free up Bible education in Illinois – send your check to Mauck & Baker, LLC, 1 North LaSalle Street, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60602. Please go to [www.illinois-biblecolleges.com](http://www.illinois-biblecolleges.com) for more information about the lawsuit. ■