

CIVIL CASE SUMMARIES

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES 2017 – 2018 TERM

Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, No. 16-111. (Argued December 5, 2017-Decided June 4, 2018)

Holding: In this narrow decision, the Court reversed the Colorado Court of Appeals. Justice Kennedy issued the opinion for the majority which held that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission violated the Free Exercise Clause. The Petitioner did not receive a neutral and respectful consideration of his claims in this case. The consideration of his claims was riddled with hostility concerning his sincere religious belief. Therefore, the treatment of the Petitioner’s case violated the State’s duty under the First Amendment “not to base its views on hostility to a religious point of view.”