

Religious Liberty Law Section

Theme Introduction

By William Wagner



This edition of the *Michigan Bar Journal* dedicated to religious liberty law comes on the heels of the relatively recent formation of the SBM Religious Liberty Law Section. Since its inception in 2018, the section has grown to more than 220 members.

Timothy Denney's article, "Adding Civil Rights by Shrinking Religious Liberty," focuses on a proposal redefining religion in Michigan's civil rights law; the author views the initiative as the most important proposed legislation concerning religious liberty in Michigan in the last 50 years. In "Understanding the Cancel Constitution Culture," I analyze why religious liberty increasingly faces constitutional diminishment while previously prohibited conduct evolves into constitutionally

protected liberty. In "Little Sisters, Supreme Faith," Erin Mersino tells the decades-long story of the Little Sisters of the Poor's journey through the country's courts, culminating in a victory at the U.S. Supreme Court. Finally, in "Religious Liberty at the Supreme Court: 2020 Term," John Bursch breaks down recent religious liberty cases.

The Religious Liberty Law Section also invites you to read "Call to Duty," written by Tracey Lee, the section's founding chair, at <https://connect.michbar.org/religiousliberty/home>.

Michigan has an admirably long tradition of respecting and defending religious liberty. Your fellow State Bar of Michigan members present the articles in this issue in the hope that this tradition continues. ■