

**Daniel Bursuck - Fwd: Goldwater Institute challenges Scottsdale's censorship of business signs**

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**From:** Michael Ortega <michael.ortega@tucsonaz.gov>  
**To:** Mike Rankin; Albert Elias  
**Date:** 10/05/2016 8:44 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Goldwater Institute challenges Scottsdale's censorship of business signs

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Interesting...

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jared Blanchard <[info@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:info@goldwaterinstitute.org)>  
**Date:** October 5, 2016 at 10:48:21 AM MST  
**To:** <[theortegas2011@hotmail.com](mailto:theortegas2011@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Goldwater Institute challenges Scottsdale's censorship of business signs  
**Reply-To:** Jared Blanchard <[info@goldwaterinstitute.org](mailto:info@goldwaterinstitute.org)>



Good morning, Michael,

Today, we filed suit against the City of Scottsdale to challenge the unconstitutionality of the city's rules for business signs. The U.S. Constitution protects the free speech rights of business owners just like everyone else. But Scottsdale and many other communities censor entrepreneurs who want to use signs to let the public know about their products or services.

Our client, Aaron Shearer, owns Green Bee Farmers Market—which she ran successfully in Scottsdale for years. But the city recently banned her from displaying signs to tell people where her farmer's markets were located—even on private property with the owner's permission. Customers no longer know where to find Aaron's markets and she's struggling to stay in business.

Scottsdale imposes different rules on different signs. If she were running for office, Aaron could put election signs on the street, no questions asked. If she were selling Christmas trees, the city wouldn't require a permit. But because her signs direct customers to a farmers' market, she needs a city permit and bureaucrats are dictating how many signs she gets, where she can put them, and for how long.

That's silly—and unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court has said cities can't impose different rules based on the messages that signs convey—that's a form of censorship.

We recently published a [report](#) explaining how the First Amendment applies to sign codes, and we recently sued the City of Chandler over its censorship of business signs. Last year, the Institute vindicated the First Amendment rights of [commercial sign walkers](#), and two years ago we successfully defended the rights of business owner [Alan Korwin](#) after Phoenix officials took his signs down from city bus stops.

You can learn more about Aaron's case in *Shearer v. Scottsdale* by [clicking here](#). If you would like to support our work defending commercial free speech, [please donate here](#).

Thank you for your support!

Jared Blanchard

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**Jared Blanchard**

Staff Attorney

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Please join us on October 14 as we honor this year's Goldwater Award Recipient, Peggy Noonan.

**Register today!** *Time is running out and seating is limited.*

[GoldwaterDinner.org](http://GoldwaterDinner.org)

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