

1. **Identification of the Case:** Lee v. Weisman, Supreme Court of the United States, 505 U.S. 577, 112 S. Ct. 2649 (Providence, RI, 1992.)
2. **Action Sought:** Permanent Injunction
3. **Facts of the Case:** A principal in the public-school system of Providence, Rhode Island, invited a rabbi to offer invocation and benediction prayers as part of the graduation ceremony. A student's father, Daniel Weisman believe this to be an infringement upon her first amendment religious rights.
4. **Question to be Answered by the Court:** The question is whether allowing clerical members that offer prayers as part of the official school graduation ceremony is an infringement on a person's First Amendment religious rights?
5. **Answer(s) Given by the Court(s):** Lower Court - principal, no. Appellate Court - yes. Supreme Court - yes.
6. **Reasons:** (1) The principal had been permitted by the school district to allow clerical members to attend educational ceremonies; (2) a student's parents objected with this invitation; (3) the principal followed through with his invitation, despite the parent's verbal disagreement.
7. **Significance of the Case [for schools]:**
Coming from Catholic upbringing, not only in my household, but in my schooling too, I tried to read through this brief with an unbiased lens. The main dispute residing in this case was is the attendance and benediction payers of the Rabbi a violation of someone's first amendment religious rights? Although the school district permits their administrators to invite clerical members, they must speak in a manner that is nonsectarian. This limits the opportunity for indirect coercion or public and peer pressure of religious beliefs.

Towards the end of the case, there was a good point made on the perspectives of both sides. One side believes they are merely asking for respect and understanding of their religious beliefs, whereas the other side feels like they are being marginalized into a religious minority of sorts. I do see both sides of this argument and believe it connects to a lot of facets in education.

This case had me reflected on a topic that has in recent years has come to the forefront of conversations about equality in our country. Is mandating people's participation in the Pledge of Allegiance an intrusion on someone's religious rights? ("one nation under God") I found several parallels between the Lee vs. Weisman case and this disagreement surrounding the Pledge of Allegiance. Like the Lee vs. Weisman case, one side asks for respect, the other wants equality.

"Lee v. Weisman." *Oyez*, www.oyez.org/cases/1991/90-1014. Accessed 10 Nov. 2019.