

Teachers Say the Darndest Things - Again

A school district attorney's and school employee attorney's perspectives on the First Amendment line between school employees' speech as public employees and private citizens
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“Well, I shan’t go, at any rate,” said Alice: “besides, that’s not a regular rule: you invented it just now.”

"It’s the oldest rule in the book," said the King.

"Then it ought to be Number One," said Alice.

Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*



Online Speech by Teachers



Online Speech by Teachers:

Munroe v. Central Bucks Sch. Dist., 805 F.3d 454 (3d Cir. 2015)

- High school English teacher
- Started a blog entitled *Where are we going, and why are we in this handbasket?*
 - Did not expressly identify either where she worked or lived, the name of the school where she taught, or the names of her students.
 - Claimed her blog was meant to be viewed by friends that she had asked to subscribe - did not intend for it to be read by the public at large.
 - For most of its existence, only had nine (9) subscribers

Munroe v. Central Bucks Sch. Dist., 805 F.3d
454 (3d Cir. 2015)

At the top of her January 20, 2010 blog post, there was a depiction of a school bus with a “Short Bus” sign and the following heading:

“I DON’T CARE IF YOU LICK THE WINDOWS, TAKE THE SPECIAL BUS OR OCCASSIONALLY PEE ON YOURSELF ... YOU HANG IN THERE SUNSHINE, YOU’RE FRIGGIN SPECIAL.”



Munroe v. Central Bucks Sch. Dist., 805 F.3d
454 (3d Cir. 2015)

- “I’m being a renegade right now, living on the edge and, um, blogging AT work...However, as I’m blogging about work stuff, I give myself a free pass of conscience.”
- “Also, as the kids get worse and worse, I find that the canned comments don’t accurately express my true sentiments about them...if it’s a kid that has no personality, I’ll put ‘ability to work independently.’”

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