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6-30-2023

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Recommended Citation

Leslie, Melanie B., "A Message from Dean Leslie on the Supreme Court LGBTQ+ Ruling" (2023). *Cardozo News 2023*. 28.

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A Message from Dean Leslie on the Supreme Court LGBTQ+ Ruling



I write to you again in light of more news from the Supreme Court. As many of you know, the Court held today in *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis* that businesses have a First Amendment free speech right to refuse to provide some creative and artistic services to LGBTQ+ individuals. It is an important moment to reaffirm that Cardozo's commitment to protecting LGBTQ+ people's rights is steadfast and unwavering.

While the First Amendment guarantees all of us the right to think and speak as we wish, our values call upon us to reject discrimination in public accommodations and to embrace openness to all, whatever their race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. LGBTQ+ students, faculty, staff and alumni play a critical role in our community. Inclusion and equality are cornerstones of legal education, and Cardozo will continue to work to protect the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

With warm regards,
Melanie Leslie
Dean, and Dr. Samuel Belkin Professor of Law