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[Josh Rosenau](#) [1]

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A beloved holiday [tradition](#) [11] returns.

'Twas the night before Kitzmas and all through the land,
No creationist was stirring, not even Ken Ham;
The briefs had been drafted and filed with great care,
In hopes that Judge Jones's decision'd be fair;
The plaintiffs were nestled all snug in their beds,
While Bill of Rights visions ran round in their heads;
And Nick blogged for [PT](#) [12], and Vic played [The Boss](#) [13],
And fretted and fussed o'er the chance of a loss,
When over the wires there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.
Away to NetNewsWire I flew like a flash,
I started my browser and cleared out the cache.

[The ruling](#) ^[14] I found at the federal court
Was a verdict I knew I would love to report.
For what to my wondering eyes should appear
But a hundred-plus pages, all written so clear,
With lawyerly flourish like ten score trombones,
I knew in a moment it must be Judge Jones.
More sharper than razors the experts they came,
Whom he cited, and marshaled, and quoted by name:
“Now, *Miller!* now, *Alters!* now, *Padian*—why not—
On, *Robert T. Pennock!* on, *Forrest* and *Haught!*
The Establishment Clause says that *Pandas* must go,
ID isn’t science; heck, *Fuller* says so!”
The case had been brought in a federal court
When the Dover school board thought it wise to consort
With Disco. ‘tute shysters who sold them a line:
“Don’t call it creation, but ID should be fine.”
As rats that behind the Pied Piper did flow,
The school board had taken the DI’s say-so;
The teachers they ordered to point to ID,
“Evolution’s a theory, with gaps, don’t you see!”
A book had been bought to be put on their shelves;
Who purchased the book? No one knew, maybe elves.
More likely, a church group had ponied the dough,
But when pressed on the point Buckingham had said “no.”
His lies how they winkled! His obstruction so crude!
In the face of such efforts, eleven folks sued.
Tammy and friends brought the ACLU,
Steve Harvey and Rothschild joined *pro bono* too,
The quartet was finished by Richard B. Katskee,
With sciencey backing from Nicholas Matzke.
(The opposite side was in sad disarray:
For Dembski and Meyer had scuttled away,
While Minnich and Fuller and Michael J. Behe
Gave tragicomedic performances, e.g.
Comparing ID to a view like astrology—
I think that Jeane Dixon is owed an apology.
The More Center’s Thompson was no Machiavelli;
His case was as firm as a bowl full of jelly.)
To the court came reporters, in need of news hooks,
And [Lauri](#) ^[15] and [Gordy](#) ^[16] and [Edward](#) ^[17] wrote books.
And [Matthew](#) ^[18] wrote also, of Darwin’s own breed,
Each one of their books is a cracking good read.
Jones heard the case fairly, not tipping his hand,
Though the case it moved slowly, and forty days spanned.
His ruling was thorough, at times it waxed furious,
That board members lied he considered perjurious.
By then an election had sorted their hash,
Still Jones fined the board around two million cash.

In reading the ruling I filled up with glee,
The flaws of ID for the whole world to see!
In schools 'cross the nation I knew folks would say—
“Happy Kitzmas to all, and to all a good day!”



By Josh Rosenau and Glenn Branch, with apologies to Clement Clark Moore.

[Reports of the NCSE 35:6](#) [19] contains reminiscences of the *Kitzmiller* trial from Lauri Lebo, Jennifer Miller, Kenneth R. Miller, Eric Rothschild, and NCSE’s Eugenie C. Scott—all well worth reading!

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