

1 ADVOCATES FOR FAITH AND FREEDOM  
2 Robert H. Tyler, CA Bar No. 179572  
3 Jennifer L. Monk, CA Bar No. 245512  
4 24910 Las Brisas Road, Suite 110  
5 Murrieta, CA 92562  
6 Telephone: (951) 304-7583  
7 Facsimile: (951) 600-4996  
8 rtyler@faith-freedom.com  
9 jmonk@faith-freedom.com

10 Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
11 CHAD FARNAN, BILL FARNAN and TERESA FARNAN

12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
13 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
14 SOUTHERN DIVISION

15 **CHAD FARNAN**, a minor, by and through  
16 his parents **BILL FARNAN** and **TERESA**  
17 **FARNAN**;

18 Plaintiffs,

19 vs.

20 **CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL**  
21 **DISTRICT; DR. JAMES CORBETT**,  
22 individually and in his official capacity as an  
23 employee of Capistrano Unified School  
24 District; and **DOES 1 through 20** inclusive,

25 Defendants.

Case No.: SACV07-1434 JVS (ANX)

**PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO  
DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR LEAVE TO  
FILE AN AMENDED ANSWER AND  
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AN  
AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

Date: July 13, 2009  
Time: 1:30 p.m.  
Dept: 10C  
Judge: James V. Selna

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1                                   **PLAINTIFFS’ RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS’**  
2                                   **MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AN AMENDED ANSWER**

3           Plaintiff, Chad Farnan, a minor, by and through his parents, Bill Farnan and  
4 Teresa Farnan (hereinafter referred to as “Plaintiffs”), submit the following Opposition  
5 to Defendants’ Motion for Leave to File an Amended Answer:

6                                   **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

7   **INTRODUCTION**

8           Defendants should not be granted leave to amend their Answer in order to raise  
9 qualified immunity as an affirmative defense at such an extraordinarily late stage in this  
10 litigation, as they have had ample time to plead this defense previously. Defendants  
11 have failed to provide this Court with a legitimate reason for failing to plead qualified  
12 immunity as an affirmative defense, and if this Court permits them to take such an  
13 action, it will only add to the injustice that Defendants have already caused Plaintiffs.  
14 Granting leave to amend Defendants’ Answer would not only result in injustice to the  
15 Plaintiffs, but it would not even provide the protection to the Defendants that qualified  
16 immunity is designed to provide. Defendants have already incurred the cost of  
17 litigation, as have Plaintiffs, who did so in good faith. Furthermore, Plaintiffs are  
18 seeking only nominal damages, not an exorbitant sum that would warrant qualified  
19 immunity.

20           Defendants’ repeated failures to raise qualified immunity during the pretrial  
21 proceedings of this case – they did not raise it in their Answer, Motion to Dismiss,  
22 Motion for Summary Judgment, or Opposition to Plaintiff’s Motion for Summary  
23 Judgment – was a strategic choice that Defendants cannot now undo as a response to  
24 this Court’s finding Dr. Corbett’s actions to be a constitutional violation. This Court  
25 ruled on the dispositive motions for summary judgment, finding an Establishment  
26 Clause violation, and Defendants now seek to raise a defense that has been waived and  
27 lost.

28    ///

1 **ARGUMENT**

2 The threshold question presented by Defendants’ Motion for Leave to File an  
3 Amended Answer (“Motion”) is whether it is even possible for Defendants to raise an  
4 affirmative defense, qualified immunity, which has not been raised at any point during  
5 lengthy litigation. Defendants’ failure to acknowledge the existence of this question or  
6 to provide this Court with any legal authority stating that the defense has not been lost  
7 is telling. Plaintiffs have addressed Defendants’ inability to raise qualified immunity at  
8 this stage in the litigation in both Plaintiffs’ Supplemental Briefing Pursuant to Order  
9 dated June 1, 2009 and Plaintiffs’ Opposition to Defendants’ concurrently filed Motion  
10 that improperly seeks a “post summary judgment order” from this Court as to  
11 Dr. Corbett’s qualified immunity. As a result, Plaintiffs will not restate the entirety of  
12 those arguments but will refer this Court to the aforementioned briefing prior to its  
13 consideration of whether Defendants can satisfy the standard for leave to amend the  
14 complaint at such a late stage of the litigation.

15 Additionally, the Defendants’ delay in seeking to amend their Answer and their  
16 failure to argue qualified immunity are significant, both in terms of procedure and  
17 because it is relevant in determining whether this Court should grant leave to amend at  
18 this time. Defendants cite *Morongo Band of Mission Indians v. Rose*, 893 F.2d 1074  
19 (9th Cir. 1990), for the proposition that “a mere delay in seeking leave to amend is not a  
20 sufficient basis for denying a motion to amend.” (Motion 7, lns. 7-11.) Defendants fail  
21 to provide a complete picture of this case, however, the analysis of which is far broader  
22 than Defendants indicate. *Morongo* does not provide a basis for this Court to grant  
23 Defendants’ Motion for Leave to Amend. In *Morongo*, the court actually denied the  
24 plaintiff the right to amend on the basis that “new claims set forth in the amended  
25 complaint would have greatly altered the nature of the litigation and would have  
26 required defendants to have undertaken, at a late hour, an entirely new course of  
27 defense.” *Morongo*, 893 F.2d at 1079. The court further stated that “[t]he delay of  
28 nearly two years, while not alone enough to support denial, [was] nevertheless

1 relevant.” *Id.* As the *Morongo* court stated, the fact that eighteen-months has passed  
2 since this litigation began is relevant to this Court’s decision as to whether qualified  
3 immunity can be asserted for the first time at this stage of the litigation and whether to  
4 deny Defendant’s Motion for Leave to Amend. Defendants’ delay should be taken into  
5 consideration in light of the substantial prejudice it would cause to Plaintiffs.

6 Should this Court find that qualified immunity has not been waived altogether,  
7 however, this Court still should not grant Defendants’ Motion for Leave to Amend the  
8 Answer (hereinafter “Motion for Leave to Amend”) and allow Defendants to raise  
9 qualified immunity as an affirmative defense. Under Rule 15(a), an affirmative defense  
10 may be added to an answer by consent of the opposing party or leave of the court. Fed.  
11 R. Civ. P., Rule 15(a). In deciding whether to grant leave to amend, courts balance a  
12 number of factors to determine when “justice so requires” leave to amend. Fed. R. Civ.  
13 P., Rule 15; 6 Charles Alan Wright, Arthur R. Miller & Mary Kay Kane, Federal  
14 Practice & Procedure § 1487. In the Ninth Circuit, as elsewhere, “[f]ive factors are  
15 taken into account to assess the propriety of a motion for leave to amend: bad faith,  
16 undue delay, prejudice to the opposing party, futility, and whether the plaintiff has  
17 previously amended the complaint.” *Johnson v. Buckley*, 356 F.3d 1067, 1077 (9th Cir.  
18 2004) (citing *Nunes v. Ashcroft*, 348 F. 3d 815, 818 (9th Cir. 2003)).

19 **I. Defendants Should Not Be Granted Leave to Amend Their Answer Because**  
20 **the Amendment Is Sought in Bad Faith.**

21 The first paragraph of Defendants’ argument reveals the flaw in Defendants’  
22 analysis – a flaw that is woven throughout their briefing and is intrinsic in the  
23 arguments they now assert. Citing to *U.S. v. Webb*, 655 F.2d 977, 979 (9th Cir. 1981)  
24 for the proposition that leave to amend should be granted with liberality, Defendants  
25 state the following: “[C]ourts should be guided by the policy favoring decision on the  
26 merits ‘rather than on the pleadings or technicalities.’” (Motion, p. 6, lns. 9-14.).  
27 Plaintiffs wholeheartedly agree. Failing to plead qualified immunity does not, however,  
28 involve “pleadings or technicalities.”



1 On May 1, 2009, this Court ruled that Dr. Corbett violated the Establishment  
2 Clause. Defendants now seek leave to amend the Answer to add an affirmative defense  
3 that was never asserted prior to the ruling on the merits. Defendants' briefs rely on case  
4 law supporting leave to amend a pleading after an early dismissal due to a procedural  
5 technicality in order to obtain a ruling on the merits. There is no procedural technicality  
6 here. Defendants' reliance is therefore misplaced. Defendants requested a ruling on the  
7 merits in the form of a motion for summary judgment, and opposed the same from  
8 Plaintiff, and now wish to unwind the clock and seek leave to amend. That is neither  
9 the purpose nor the intent behind the case law upon which Defendant relies.  
10 Defendants' Motion is sought in bad faith.

11 As noted by Defendants, "[i]n determining whether an amendment is sought in  
12 bad faith, courts have inquired whether the party seeking amendment has previously  
13 engaged in dilatory tactics and have evaluated the value of the proposed amendment."  
14 (Motion p. 7, Ins. 13-18 (citing *Thornton v. McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.*, 261 F.3d 789,  
15 799 (9th Cir. 2001).) Here, there is absolutely no value to the proposed amendment at  
16 this stage in the litigation and, despite providing the above-mentioned cite, Defendants  
17 do not even attempt to state the value of the proposed amendment. Generally speaking,  
18 both Plaintiffs and Defendants agree that the qualified immunity defense "shield[s]  
19 [government agents] from liability for civil damages . . . ." *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457  
20 U.S. 800, 818 (1982); *see also* Motion, p. 8, Ins. 1-6 . Plaintiffs seek only nominal  
21 damages, and both Plaintiffs and Defendants have incurred the expense of litigation.  
22 Defendants' amendment is completely void of value, both to Plaintiffs and Defendants  
23 themselves, and is sought in bad faith following this Court's ruling on the merits.

24 Regarding their eleventh-hour assertion of the affirmative defense, Defendants  
25 contend that this Court's May 1, 2009 ruling on the Party's Motions for Summary  
26 Judgment "rendered the qualified immunity defense available to Defendants for the first  
27 time in this litigation." (Motion, p. 7, Ins. 26-27.) According to Defendants, it was at  
28 this time that this Court "determined the first prong of the [qualified immunity] inquiry,

1 i.e. Dr. Corbett violated the Establishment Clause when he made the single statement  
2 during one lecture that creationism was ‘religious, superstitious nonsense.’” (Motion p.  
3 9, Ins. 3-5.) This determination, said Defendants, “triggered . . . the possibility of a  
4 qualified immunity defense.” (*Id.*) As is true with several of Defendants’ arguments  
5 made in this Motion and the concurrently filed “Motion for Determination,” Defendants  
6 fail to provide any legal authority that even remotely provides precedent for such a  
7 statement. As Defendants later note, Intervenors understood that qualified immunity  
8 was a possible defense upon the filing of their Answer. (Motion p. 10.) That fact  
9 demonstrates that Plaintiffs’ Complaint had clearly raised the possibility of such a  
10 defense, which is always, at minimum, a possibility where a lawsuit is filed against a  
11 state entity in federal court.

12 Further, Defendants argue that a determination of whether Dr. Corbett violated  
13 the Establishment Clause is somehow relevant to this Court’s determination to grant  
14 leave to amend. It is not, however, one of the prongs a court is required to look into  
15 when making the inquiry as to whether Defendants are entitled to qualified immunity.  
16 Defendants base their assertion on a faulty interpretation of the standard for determining  
17 whether a public official is entitled to qualified immunity. The qualified immunity  
18 defense “‘requires a two-part inquiry: (1) [w]as the law governing the state official’s  
19 conduct clearly established [and] (2) [u]nder that law could a reasonable state official  
20 have believed his conduct was lawful” *Jeffers v. Gomez*, 267 F.3d 895, 910 (9th Cir.  
21 2001) (citing *Browning v. Vernon*, 44 F.3d 818, 822 (9th Cir. 1995). The relevant  
22 inquiry for the first prong of qualified immunity is (1) whether the facts alleged or  
23 shown by the plaintiff make out a violation of a constitutional right, and (2) if so,  
24 whether that right was “‘clearly established’ at the time of the defendant's alleged  
25 misconduct.” *Pearson v. Callahan*, 129 S. Ct. 808, 811 (2009) (citing *Saucier v. Katz*,  
26 533 U.S. 194, 194 (2001)).

27 It is quite obvious from Plaintiffs’ First Amended Complaint that the one and  
28 only cause of action Plaintiffs asserted was that Dr. Corbett had violated the

1 Establishment Clause while teaching his Fall 2007 Advanced Placement European  
2 History class. The facts alleged by Plaintiff clearly established a violation of a  
3 constitutional right. Even so, affirmative defenses do not require a determination that a  
4 law was violated before they must be asserted. Further, as is fully addressed in  
5 Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' concurrently filed "Motion for Determination,"  
6 this right was clearly established at the time of Defendants' misconduct.

7 Defendants' entire argument is premised on their irrelevant and incorrect  
8 assertion that this Court's ruling that one statement violated the Establishment Clause  
9 was a novel ruling by this Court, which thereby rendered an affirmative defense,  
10 qualified immunity, applicable for the first time. To support this premise, however,  
11 Defendants take a myriad of Plaintiffs' quotes out of context in order to support their  
12 assertion that in order for this Court to find an Establishment Clause violation, Dr.  
13 Corbett must have made incessant and continual comments displaying his disapproval  
14 of Christianity. Although Plaintiffs continue in their contention that this did occur in  
15 Dr. Corbett's classroom, this is not the standard that has been established by the  
16 Supreme Court or the standard that was set forth by Plaintiffs. Instead, Plaintiffs  
17 consistently asserted that an Establishment Clause violation occurs when a government  
18 actor conveys a message of disapproval of religion. Moreover, Defendants should have  
19 asserted qualified immunity as an affirmative defense in their Motion to Dismiss or, at  
20 minimum, in the Answer. As Defendants well know, despite their inclusion of a  
21 plethora of quotes found in documents drafted throughout the entirety of the eighteen-  
22 month litigation, the Motion to Dismiss was filed following the filing of the First  
23 Amended Complaint, and their Answer was filed following the First Amended  
24 Complaint and Opposition to Motion to Dismiss. In other words, seven of the nine  
25 quotes relied upon by Defendants are not even relevant to Defendants' argument as  
26 discovery had not commenced and the cross-motions for summary judgment had not yet  
27 been filed. (Motion, pp. 3-5.)

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1 Finally, Defendants’ assertion that a court had not yet ruled that a single  
2 statement made by a teacher could violate the Establishment Clause is irrelevant to the  
3 inquiry of whether a public official is entitled to qualified immunity. The law does not  
4 require that this Court’s final ruling be clearly established, but that Plaintiffs’  
5 allegations, as stated in their complaint, show that Defendants’ conduct was in violation  
6 of a constitutional right that was clearly established. This is at least partially due to the  
7 fact that the law does not even contemplate the assertion of qualified immunity after the  
8 Court has made a ruling on the merits. Defendants’ statement that that “if Farnan’s  
9 contentions were accepted as true, it did not appear that a viable qualified immunity  
10 defense existed” is contrary to Defendants’ statement that “case law did exist in 2007  
11 that would seem to support Farnan’s claim” and, more importantly, is contrary to the  
12 law. (Motion 9, Ins. 14-19.)

13 Based on the aforementioned information, Defendants’ assertion that this Court’s  
14 May 1, 2009 ruling rendered the qualified immunity defense available to Defendants for  
15 the first time lacks any and all merit. Defendants did not raise the defense of qualified  
16 immunity in their Answer, Motion to Dismiss, Motion for Summary Judgment, or  
17 Opposition to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment. They have not provided even  
18 one justifiable reason for their failure to argue qualified immunity as an affirmative  
19 defense during the pretrial proceedings and prior to a ruling on the merits. Defendants’  
20 leave to amend the Answer is sought in bad faith, and defendants should not be granted  
21 leave to amend their Answer.

22 **II. Defendants Should Not Be Granted Leave to Amend Their Answer Because**  
23 **the Amendment Is Futile.**

24 Defendants’ argue that the amendment of their Answer is not futile and that “an  
25 argument could be made that a request for leave to amend made *prior* to the Court’s  
26 May 1, 2009 ruling most likely would have been considered legally tenuous in light of  
27 Farnan’s allegations up until that time.” (Motion, p. 10, Ins. 8-11. Defendants’  
28 statement that “an argument could be made” to this effect is evidence of the absurdity of

1 this contention, as even the Defendants themselves don't actually commit to this  
2 argument. Clearly, Defendants could have made a request for leave to amend their  
3 answer prior to this Court's May 1, 2009 ruling and, more importantly, should have  
4 asserted the qualified immunity defense at one of many opportunities throughout the  
5 litigation. Defendants seek leave to amend their Answer after a final ruling has been  
6 issued in this case. This in and of itself is evidence of the futility of this Motion. The  
7 privilege of qualified immunity "is 'an immunity *from suit* rather than a mere defense to  
8 liability." *Castaldo v. Stone*, 192 F. Supp. 2d 1124, 1138 (D. Col. 2001) (emphasis  
9 added). After eighteen months of litigation and countless hours of discovery and  
10 depositions (on both sides of the lawsuit), this Court has ruled on the dispositive cross-  
11 motions and issued a ruling on the merits in Plaintiffs' favor. It is absurd then for  
12 Defendants to argue now, at this point in the litigation, that they should be immune  
13 "from suit." *Id.* Further, Defendants' make this argument without providing any legal  
14 authority to support their contention that qualified immunity can be used merely as a  
15 defense to liability and nothing else. Finally, Defendants would gain nothing from  
16 asserting qualified immunity in the face of nominal damages and an injunction;  
17 conversely, Plaintiffs' would be substantially prejudiced.

18 Defendants' allowing the case to be fully litigated for approximately eighteen  
19 months only to argue qualified immunity following a final ruling on the merits is an  
20 injustice to Plaintiffs and would further be futile in light of the type of damages sought  
21 by Plaintiffs. Therefore, this Court should not grant Defendants leave to amend their  
22 Answer because such an amendment would be futile.

23 **III. Defendants Should Not Be Granted Leave to Amend Their Answer Because**  
24 **The Amendment Will Cause Undue Prejudice.**

25 According to courts and commentators, prejudice is the most important, and the  
26 most oft used, reason to deny leave to amend. *See Jackson v. Bank of Haw.*, 902 F.2d  
27 1385, 1387 (9th Cir. 1990); 6 Charles Alan Wright, Arther R. Miller & Mary Kay  
28 Kane, *Federal Practice & Procedure* § 1487 (2d ed. 1990). In considering prejudice,

1 courts generally look to see what hardship the moving party will endure if leave is not  
2 granted, the reason the moving party failed to include the material in the original  
3 pleading, and the injustice that would result to the party opposing the motion. 6 Charles  
4 Alan Wright, Arther R. Miller & Mary Kay Kane, Federal Practice & Procedure § 1487  
5 (2nd ed. 1990).

6 Here, because Plaintiffs are seeking only nominal damages, the hardship  
7 Defendants will endure if leave is not granted is virtually non-existent. Furthermore,  
8 this case involves a single cause of action for violation of the Establishment Clause  
9 against a School District official and the School District itself. There is therefore no  
10 justifiable reason for Defendants’ failure to assert the defense at one of multiple  
11 opportunities at earlier stages in the litigation. Finally, the injustice that would result to  
12 Plaintiffs if leave to amend is granted at this time is significant. As discussed above,  
13 both parties have engaged in significant discovery and filed numerous motions.  
14 “Prejudice and undue delay are inherent in an amendment asserted after the close of  
15 discovery and after dispositive motions have been filed, briefed, and decided.”  
16 *Campbell v. Emory Clinic*, 166 F.3d 1157, 1162 (11th Cir. 1999). Allowing the case to  
17 be fully litigated for approximately eighteen months only to grant immunity at the tail  
18 end of the case would be an injustice to Plaintiffs. *Id.*; *see also*, *Solomon v. N. Am. Life*  
19 *& Cas. Ins. Co.*, 151 F.3d 1132, 1139 (9th Cir. 1998) (motion “on the eve of the  
20 discovery deadline” properly denied because it would have required reopening  
21 discovery, thus delaying proceedings).

22 Defendants contend that the amendment of their Answer will not cause undue  
23 prejudice to Plaintiffs because the Union Intervenors asserted this affirmative defense  
24 on Dr. Corbett’s behalf. (Motion 11, Ins. 1-3.) Defendants claim that “based on Union  
25 Intervenors’ assertion of the affirmative defense, Dr. Corbett already is entitled to a  
26 determination of qualified immunity” and for that reason “Defendants . . . bring this  
27 motion in an abundance of caution.” (Motion 11, Ins. 2-4.) This statement is  
28 disingenuous at best. To begin with, the Union Intervenors cannot assert an affirmative

1 defense on behalf of another party, Defendant Dr. Corbett. *See Harlow v. Fitzgerald*,  
2 457 U.S. 800, 815 (1982) (“Qualified or ‘good faith’ immunity is an affirmative defense  
3 that *must be pleaded by a defendant official.*”) (emphasis added) (citing *Gomez v.*  
4 *Toledo*, 446 U.S. 635 (1980)). Additionally, Dr. Corbett is not entitled to a  
5 “determination of qualified immunity” simply because the Union Intervenors pleaded it  
6 in their Answer. This ignores the fact that it was not pleaded by Defendant Dr. Corbett  
7 himself. Most importantly, however, affirmative defenses that are pleaded in the  
8 answer and never argued are lost. *See Peterson v. Highland Music, Inc.*, 140 F.3d 1313,  
9 1318 (9th Cir. 1998) (“Most defenses . . . may be waived as the result of course of  
10 conduct during litigation. [I]f a defendant were to engage in ‘sandbagging’ by raising  
11 the issue . . . on a motion to dismiss, deliberately refraining from pursuing it any farther  
12 when his motion is denied in the hopes of receiving a favorable disposition on the  
13 merits, and then raising the issue again . . . only if he were unhappy with the district  
14 court’s ultimate decision, then we would not hesitate to find that the defendant had  
15 waived [the defense.]”); *New.Net, Inc. v. Lavasoft*, 356 F. Supp. 2d 1071, 1073 (C.D.  
16 Cal. 2003) (“Defendants were given an opportunity to litigate the personal jurisdiction  
17 issues before the Court addressed the merits of the pending motion. Defendants simply  
18 refused to do so.”); *see also, Yeldell v. Tutt*, 913 F.2d 533, 538-39 (8th Cir. 1990)  
19 (holding that defendants did not successfully “preserve[] their right” to raise an  
20 affirmative defense by raising it in their answer but failing to reassert it at any point  
21 thereafter and, specifically, that “[a]sserting a jurisdictional defect in the answer did not  
22 ‘preserve the defense in perpetuity’” (citation omitted)). If Dr. Corbett is entitled to a  
23 “determination of qualified immunity” simply because it was pleaded in Union  
24 Intervenors’ Answer, then it follows that he would also be entitled as a matter of course  
25 to numerous defenses that were pled in the same Answer but never argued throughout  
26 the litigation. Such defenses include estoppel and exhaustion of administrative  
27 remedies. Defendants’ argument would indicate that, “in the abundance of caution,”  
28 ///

1 they could seek leave to amend the Answer to add estoppel and be entitled to a  
2 determination following a ruling on the merits.

3 Defendants additionally appear to argue that Union Intervenors' inclusion of  
4 qualified immunity in their Answer placed Plaintiffs on notice that Defendants could  
5 also assert the defense and, therefore, Plaintiffs would not be prejudiced if Defendants  
6 now amend their Answer to include this defense. (Motion 10, Ins. 22-23.) While it is  
7 true that Plaintiffs have known that Defendants could have asserted the defense of  
8 qualified immunity in their Answer, Motion to Dismiss, Opposition to Plaintiffs'  
9 Motion for Summary Judgment, Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment, or at any  
10 time during the pretrial proceedings, Plaintiff was not and could not have been aware  
11 that Defendants would attempt to raise the affirmative defense after the close of  
12 discovery and after the dispositive motions have been filed, briefed, and ruled upon.  
13 Allowing the case to be fully litigated for approximately eighteen months only to grant  
14 immunity at the tail end of the case would be an injustice to Plaintiffs for which  
15 "notice" in the form of another party's assertion of the defense would not be not  
16 sufficient justification. More significantly, Defendants cite no legal authority to support  
17 their proposition that providing notice in an Answer in any way even lessens the  
18 prejudice incurred by Plaintiffs as a result of Defendants' actions. *See Campbell v.*  
19 *Emory Clinic*, 166 F.3d 1157, 1162 (11th Cir. 1999) ("Prejudice and undue delay are  
20 inherent in an amendment asserted after the close of discovery and after dispositive  
21 motions have been filed, briefed, and decided.").

22 Defendants should not be granted leave to amend their answer because the  
23 amendment sought is unduly prejudicial to Plaintiffs.

24 **IV. Defendants Should Not Be Granted Leave to Amend Their Answer Because**  
25 **the Amendment Will Cause Undue Delay.**

26 Defendants' arguments regarding the undue delay caused by a possible  
27 amendment to their Answer this late in the litigation do not fully address the appropriate  
28 concerns based on the applicable legal authority. The simple fact that this Court



1 allowed Defendants to brief this issue at the same time other more relevant issues were  
2 being addressed by this Court does not establish that no undue delay will occur. Undue  
3 delay concerns not only the delay in proceeding forward with the case, but “whether  
4 appellants unduly delayed in filing their motion.” See, *Jackson v. Bank of Haw.*, 902 F.  
5 3d 836, 1387-88 (9th Cir. 1990). Furthermore, “whether the moving party knew or  
6 should have known the facts and theories raised by the amendment in the original  
7 pleading” is relevant to the inquiry of whether a party has unduly delayed in filing their  
8 motion. *Id.* (citing *E.E.O.C. v. Boeing Co.*, 843 F.2d 1213, 1222 (9th Cir.), cert.  
9 denied, 488 U.S. 889, 109 S.Ct. 222, 102 L.Ed.2d 212 (1988); *Jordan v. County of Los*  
10 *Angeles*, 669 F.2d 1311, 1324 (9th Cir.), vacated on other grounds, 459 U.S. 810  
11 (1982).

12 In the matter presently before this Court, Defendants have unduly delayed raising  
13 the issues of the proposed additional affirmative defense. From the start of this case  
14 Defendants knew, or should have known, all of the facts and theories raised by this new  
15 claim of qualified immunity. Defendants had ample opportunity to raise this issue and  
16 yet chose to remain silent. Qualified immunity could have been asserted in the Answer,  
17 in Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss, in his Opposition to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary  
18 Judgment, and in Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment. At each of these points  
19 in time, Defendants knew all of the same facts that they know now, and their failure to  
20 raise qualified immunity until this point thus constitutes undue delay and forecloses  
21 leave to amend.

22 Finally, Defendants argue that should this Court grant Defendants’ Motion for  
23 Leave to Amend, this would expedite this case. “If Farnan’s claim is barred by the  
24 defense, the issue can be resolved now and the necessity of a trial or further  
25 consideration regarding injunctive relief or damages will be obviated.” (Motion, p. 12,  
26 Ins. 8-10.) Defendants, however, fail to realized that “a defense of qualified immunity  
27 is not available for prospective injunctive relief.” *Vance v. Barrett*, 345 F.3d 1083, 1091  
28 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing *Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) v. United States*, 870 F.2d 518,

1 527 (9th Cir.1989) (“Qualified immunity is an affirmative defense to damage liability; it  
2 does not bar actions for declaratory or injunctive relief.”). Therefore, contrary to  
3 Defendants assertions, injunctive relief will remain an issue to be determined this Court.  
4 This Court should deny Defendants’ Motion for Leave to Amend both because of  
5 Defendants long and unfounded delay in filing their motion and because an amendment  
6 would further delay this litigation.

7 **CONCLUSION**

8 For the foregoing reasons, this Court should deny Defendants’ Motion for Leave  
9 to Amend because the request is sought in bad faith, is futile and prejudicial to  
10 Plaintiffs, and is untimely. Furthermore, if Defendants are granted leave to amend their  
11 Answer, this would cause undue prejudice and undue delay to Plaintiffs.

12 DATED: June 15, 2009

ADVOCATES FOR FAITH & FREEDOM

13  
14  
15 By: s/Jennifer L. Monk  
16 Jennifer L. Monk  
17 Email: jmonk@faith-freedom.com  
18 Attorney for Plaintiffs  
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28

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2  
3 I am employed in the county of Riverside, State of California. I am over the age  
4 of 18 and not a party to the within action. My business address is 24910 Las Brisas  
5 Road, Suite 110, Murrieta, California 92562.

6 On June 15, 2009, I caused to be served the foregoing documents described below  
7 on the following interested parties in this action:

8 **OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS’ “POST-SUMMARY JUDGMENT**  
9 **MOTION FOR A DETERMINATION THAT DR. CORBETT IS**  
10 **ENTITLED TO QUALIFIED IMMUNITY**

11  Via **ELECTRONIC CASE FILING**, by which listed counsel will automatically  
12 receive e-mail notices with links to true and correct copies of said documents:

- 13 • **Michael D Hersh**  
mherh@cta.org
- 14 • **Roberta A Kraus**  
bkraus@wss-law.com
- 15 • **Daniel K Spradlin**  
dspradlin@wss-law.com

16 Executed on June 15, 2009, at Murrieta, California.

17  
18  (Federal) I declare that I am a member of the Bar of this Court at whose direction  
19 the service was made.

20  
21  
22 s/ Jennifer L. Monk  
23 Email: jmonk@faith-freedom.com