



Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism

By *Bette Novit Evans*



Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans

A generation ago, all of the big questions concerning religious freedom in America seemed to have been resolved. At the very least, the lines of division between proponents of a wall of separation between church and state and advocates of religious accommodation seemed clearly drawn. Since then, increasing religious diversity and changing functions of government have raised new questions about what it means to allow the free exercise of religion. In this book, Bette Novit Evans explores the contemporary understandings of this First Amendment guarantee in all of its complexity and ambiguity. Evans situates constitutional arguments about free exercise within the context of theological and sociological insights about American religious experience. She surveys and evaluates several of the most well considered approaches to religious freedom and applies them to contemporary legal controversies, examining problems in defining religion and claims concerning the autonomy of religious institutions. Her conclusions about religious liberty are embedded in an appreciation of American pluralism: the guarantee of religious freedom, she argues, can be understood as an instrument for fostering alternative sources of meaning within a pluralistic political community.

 [Download Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Co ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The ...pdf](#)

Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism

By Bette Novit Evans

Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans

A generation ago, all of the big questions concerning religious freedom in America seemed to have been resolved. At the very least, the lines of division between proponents of a wall of separation between church and state and advocates of religious accommodation seemed clearly drawn. Since then, increasing religious diversity and changing functions of government have raised new questions about what it means to allow the free exercise of religion. In this book, Bette Novit Evans explores the contemporary understandings of this First Amendment guarantee in all of its complexity and ambiguity. Evans situates constitutional arguments about free exercise within the context of theological and sociological insights about American religious experience. She surveys and evaluates several of the most well considered approaches to religious freedom and applies them to contemporary legal controversies, examining problems in defining religion and claims concerning the autonomy of religious institutions. Her conclusions about religious liberty are embedded in an appreciation of American pluralism: the guarantee of religious freedom, she argues, can be understood as an instrument for fostering alternative sources of meaning within a pluralistic political community.

Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #4518402 in Books
- Brand: Brand: The University of North Carolina Press
- Published on: 1998-01-19
- Released on: 1998-01-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .69" w x 6.13" l, 1.08 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 304 pages

 [Download Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Co ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans

Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Evans (political science, Creighton Univ., Nebraska) sets out to provide a comprehensive and systematic account of contemporary jurisprudence regarding the Free Exercise clause of the First Amendment. The author assumes the reader's familiarity with the landmark cases and relevant legal history. She cites Locke, Jefferson, Madison, Burke, and de Tocqueville, as well as such modern political theorists as Alasdair MacIntyre, Charles Taylor, and Peter Berger, and she situates that account in the American political and religious landscape. Using this background, she comments on recent cases involving the Sanctuary movement, public funding in public or private schools run by religious communities, and an Air Force officer's right to wear religiously mandated attire. Evans advocates pluralism as a compromise between liberal individualism and communitarianism. Religious freedom, she shows, can make room for alternative sources of meaning within a diverse, cohesive, and vital civil society. A thoughtful work for academic collections. —John R. Leech, Brooklyn, Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

[I]ncisive and commanding analysis.

"American Studies"

A well-argued and civil contribution to the never-ending debate about religion and public life.

"First Things"

"Her original and thoughtful argument draws on important sources and issues in constitutional law.

Donald A. Downs, University of Wisconsin-Madison"

[Those curious] how a secular government and multi-faith society can accommodate competing religious claims will doubtless find the book engaging.

"Free Inquiry"

"Evans's work is the more impressive because it so carefully and persistently integrates descriptive and normative considerations.

"Franklin I. Gamwell, University of Chicago"

Incisive and commanding analysis.

"American Studies"

Her original and thoughtful argument draws on important sources and issues in constitutional law.

Donald A. Downs, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Those curious how a secular government and multi-faith society can accommodate competing religious claims will doubtless find the book engaging.

"Free Inquiry"

Evans's work is the more impressive because it so carefully and persistently integrates descriptive and normative considerations.

"Franklin I. Gamwell, University of Chicago

Review

A well-argued and civil contribution to the never-ending debate about religion and public life.--*First Things*

Evans examines the development of the Court's jurisprudence during the twentieth century and particularly during recent decades and demonstrates how difficult the task of constructing a uniform and consistent policy has proved to be. Her incisive and commanding analysis ends with a plea for a pluralist approach.--*American Studies*

Evans raises provocative questions, and those interested in how a secular government and multi-faith society can accommodate competing religious claims will doubtless find the book engaging.--*Free Inquiry*

An immensely well-informed and nuanced treatment of the full range of recent Free Exercise problems, Evans's work is the more impressive because it so carefully and persistently integrates descriptive and normative considerations. This is an engaging and important contribution to the current discussion.--Franklin I. Gamwell, University of Chicago

Evans fills a need in the literature and the law, especially in these times of ferment in the Supreme Court's and the polity's thinking about the two religion clauses of the First Amendment. Her original and thoughtful argument draws on important sources and issues in constitutional law, political theory, and the political science of interest groups. The author knows the landscape of this subtle and hard land.--Donald A. Downs, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Samual Larkin:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every single way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated the item for a while is

reading. Yep, by reading a e-book your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stand than other is high. For you personally who want to start reading the book, we give you this Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism book as beginner and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

Randall Barbee:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Justin Campbell:

Reading a book for being new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to study a book. When you learn a book you can get a great deal of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, simply because book has a lot of information into it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you need to get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself you are able to a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, and also soon. The Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism will give you a new experience in reading a book.

Caroline Gonzalez:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got learners? We believe that that problem was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. And also you know that little person similar to reading or as examining become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important and also book as to be the matter. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update with regards to something by book. A substantial number of sorts of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is this Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism.

Download and Read Online Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans #07BPFTH2RJK

Read Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans for online ebook

Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans books to read online.

Online Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans ebook PDF download

Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans Doc

Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans Mobipocket

Interpreting the Free Exercise of Religion: The Constitution and American Pluralism By Bette Novit Evans EPub