



# The Impossibility of Religious Freedom

By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan

Download now

Read Online 

## The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan

The Constitution may guarantee it. But religious freedom in America is, in fact, impossible. So argues this timely and iconoclastic work by law and religion scholar Winnifred Sullivan. Sullivan uses as the backdrop for the book the trial of Warner vs. Boca Raton, a recent case concerning the laws that protect the free exercise of religion in America. The trial, for which the author served as an expert witness, concerned regulations banning certain memorials from a multiconfessional nondenominational cemetery in Boca Raton, Florida. The book portrays the unsuccessful struggle of Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish families in Boca Raton to preserve the practice of placing such religious artifacts as crosses and stars of David on the graves of the city-owned burial ground.

Sullivan demonstrates how, during the course of the proceeding, citizens from all walks of life and religious backgrounds were harassed to define just what their religion is. She argues that their plight points up a shocking truth: religion cannot be coherently defined for the purposes of American law, because everyone has different definitions of what religion is. Indeed, while religious freedom as a political idea was arguably once a force for tolerance, it has now become a force for intolerance, she maintains.

A clear-eyed look at the laws created to protect religious freedom, this vigorously argued book offers a new take on a right deemed by many to be necessary for a free democratic society. It will have broad appeal not only for religion scholars, but also for anyone interested in law and the Constitution.

 [Download The Impossibility of Religious Freedom ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Impossibility of Religious Freedom ...pdf](#)

# The Impossibility of Religious Freedom

By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan

## The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan

The Constitution may guarantee it. But religious freedom in America is, in fact, impossible. So argues this timely and iconoclastic work by law and religion scholar Winnifred Sullivan. Sullivan uses as the backdrop for the book the trial of Warner vs. Boca Raton, a recent case concerning the laws that protect the free exercise of religion in America. The trial, for which the author served as an expert witness, concerned regulations banning certain memorials from a multiconfessional nondenominational cemetery in Boca Raton, Florida. The book portrays the unsuccessful struggle of Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish families in Boca Raton to preserve the practice of placing such religious artifacts as crosses and stars of David on the graves of the city-owned burial ground.

Sullivan demonstrates how, during the course of the proceeding, citizens from all walks of life and religious backgrounds were harassed to define just what their religion is. She argues that their plight points up a shocking truth: religion cannot be coherently defined for the purposes of American law, because everyone has different definitions of what religion is. Indeed, while religious freedom as a political idea was arguably once a force for tolerance, it has now become a force for intolerance, she maintains.

A clear-eyed look at the laws created to protect religious freedom, this vigorously argued book offers a new take on a right deemed by many to be necessary for a free democratic society. It will have broad appeal not only for religion scholars, but also for anyone interested in law and the Constitution.

## The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #744785 in Books
- Brand: Princeton University Press
- Published on: 2007-04-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .70" w x 6.14" l, .98 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

 [Download The Impossibility of Religious Freedom ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Impossibility of Religious Freedom ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan

---

### Editorial Review

#### From [Booklist](#)

The First Amendment is stirring second thoughts among scholars wary of the social and legal consequences of religious liberty. Herself a witness for the plaintiffs, Sullivan recounts the tangled courtroom drama in a Boca Raton case in which a group of Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish families unsuccessfully sought a religious exemption to city ordinances prohibiting any vertical cemetery memorials (including upright crosses, statues, candles, and Stars of David). What emerges from Sullivan's carefully documented analysis of the case is the irreducible diversity of American religions-and the profound difficulty of accommodating such a wide range of beliefs, especially when individual convictions and practices diverge from official orthodoxies. Consequently, in reluctantly ruling against the Boca Raton plaintiffs, the judge voices perplexities now all too typical of American jurists trying to balance the rights of individual conscience against the demands of public order and democratic governance. *Bryce Christensen*

*Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved*

#### Review

"A smart-and in the present circumstances, sobering-little book."--**Christopher Caldwell, *Financial Times***

"Sullivan's book has the great virtue of placing abstract legal dilemmas in the concrete realities of everyday life."--**R. Laurence Moore, *American Scholar***

"Scholars or lay-people intrigued by the status of religion in contemporary developed nations will find Sullivan's study very useful."--**John M. McTaggart, *International Review of Modern Sociology***

"Drawing on her expertise in law and religion, Sullivan argues that religious freedom in America is impossible. . . . [She] succeed[s] in arguing that religious freedoms are not as free as one might think."--**Library Journal**

"Sullivan's examination of the judicial process is only one important aspect her book. The most important contribution is her discussion of the problems of how law defines religion and through its definition impedes religious liberty."--**Bryan K. Fair, *Journal of Law and Religion***

#### From the Inside Flap

"This is a remarkably fine work that discusses the way religion is perceived and dealt with in the United States. The subject is of great moment not only in America but also in the world at large, and Sullivan has treated it with considerable analytical skill and ethnographic detail. The result is a powerful and convincing argument."--Talal Asad, City University of New York Graduate Center

"Provocative. Engaging. Valuable. Sullivan has created a kind of analytical triptych that captures some of the most important features of religions and law in the United States. It is a finely crafted portrait of an incredibly suggestive trial, a meditation on the political/legal status of folk religions in the United States, and a theoretical intervention into contemporary studies of religion jurisprudence."--Jason Bivins, North Carolina State University.

*"The Impossibility of Religious Freedom* is an astonishing book. Winnifred Sullivan once again demonstrates her flair for extracting a big lesson from a seemingly small event--in this book, a controversy over the

allowable style of grave markers in a public cemetery in Boca Raton, Florida. To the town, the issue was the ease of mowing the cemetery and making it look tidy; for the survivors of the dead buried in the cemetery the issue was the appropriate expression of religious faith. This case looks like a simple church-state controversy, but Sullivan (an expert witness in the case) deftly explains why the federal court and the First Amendment really cannot cope with the issues involved. Separating church and state requires defining what religion is. The devil here is in the definition. Sullivan offers an important challenge to the easy assumptions to the current propensity of federal courts to accommodate religion. What is religion anyway? Read this fascinating story to see how challenging that question is."--Stanley N. Katz, Princeton University

"Sullivan's exploration of unofficial religion is elegant, moving, uncompromising, and profoundly important. By examining religion literally from the ground up, it challenges all of the familiar pieties about religious liberty in America."--Philip Hamburger, author of *Separation of Church and State*

## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

#### **Ian Coghlan:**

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important normally. The book The Impossibility of Religious Freedom had been making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book The Impossibility of Religious Freedom is not only giving you a lot more new information but also to be your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your spend time to read your book. Try to make relationship with all the book The Impossibility of Religious Freedom. You never really feel lose out for everything in case you read some books.

#### **Robert Younger:**

Do you considered one of people who can't read satisfying if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This The Impossibility of Religious Freedom book is readable through you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer regarding The Impossibility of Religious Freedom content conveys the idea easily to understand by many individuals. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different in the form of it. So , do you still thinking The Impossibility of Religious Freedom is not loveable to be your top listing reading book?

#### **Robert Jackson:**

As we know that book is important thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a book we can know everything you want. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This guide The Impossibility of Religious Freedom was filled about science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has different feel when they reading the book. If you know how big advantage of a book, you can experience enjoy to read a e-book. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book you wanted.

**Sean Jones:**

A number of people said that they feel bored when they reading a e-book. They are directly felt this when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the book The Impossibility of Religious Freedom to make your current reading is interesting. Your current skill of reading skill is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the sensation about book and looking at especially. It is to be 1st opinion for you to like to open a book and study it. Beside that the reserve The Impossibility of Religious Freedom can to be your new friend when you're sense alone and confuse in what must you're doing of these time.

**Download and Read Online The Impossibility of Religious Freedom  
By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan #OUNYS4A69VX**

# **Read The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan for online ebook**

The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan 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 The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan books to read online.

## **Online The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan ebook PDF download**

**The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan Doc**

**The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan MobiPocket**

**The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan EPub**

**OUNYS4A69VX: The Impossibility of Religious Freedom By Winnifred Fallers Sullivan**