

Religious Freedom in the Workplace

Balancing Employee and Employer Rights and Duties

University of Texas School of Law

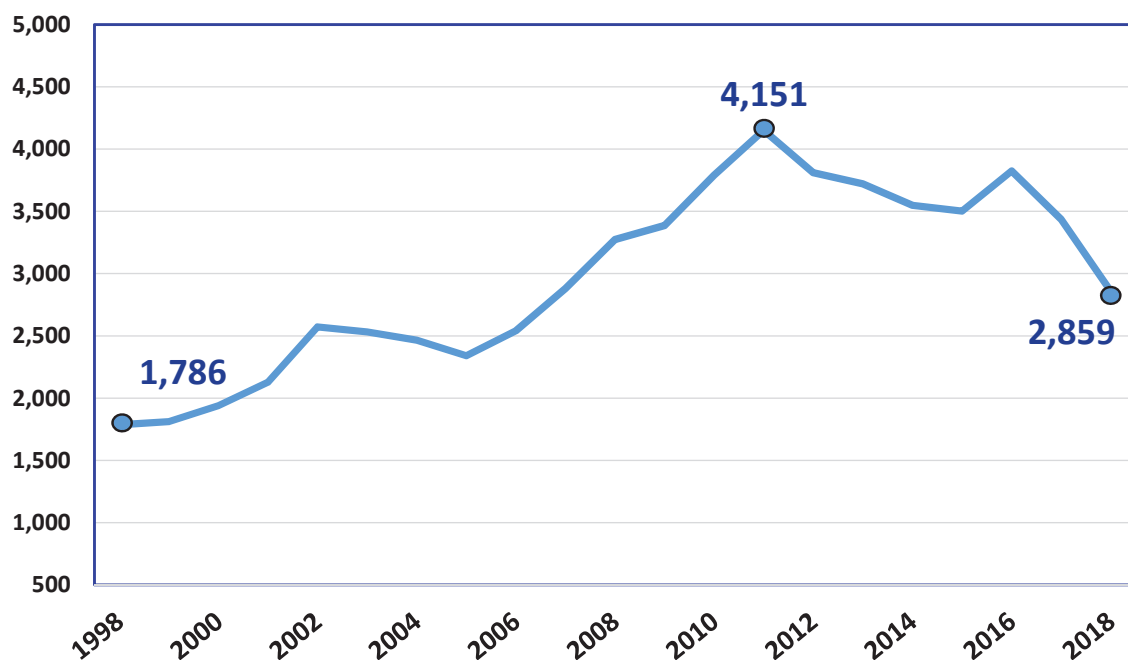
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City of Austin Law Department

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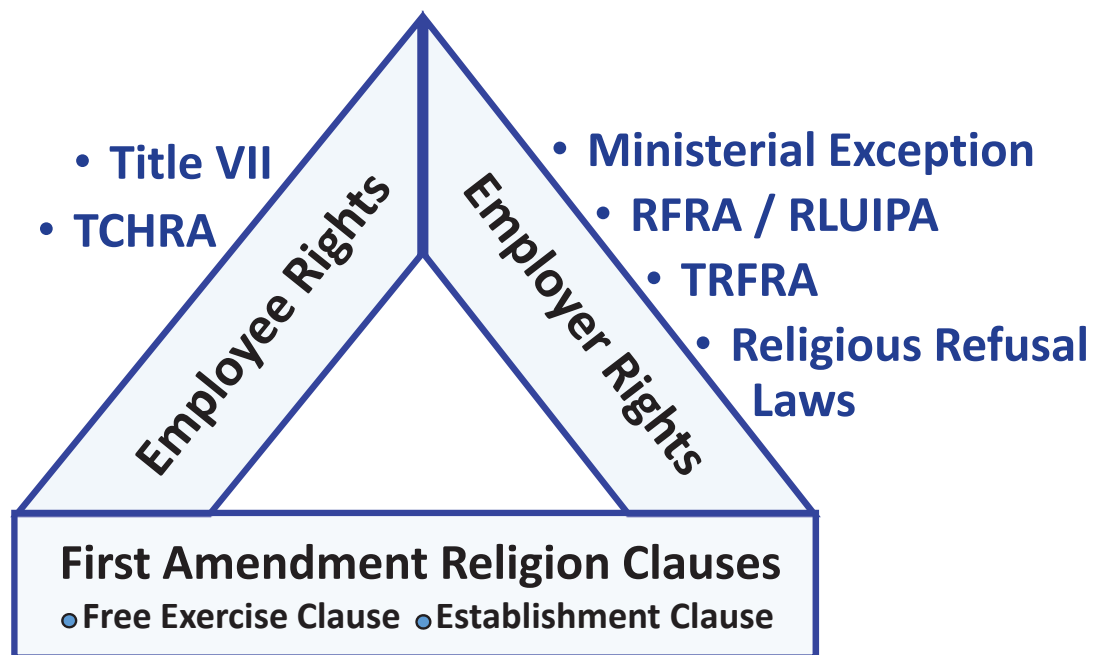
EEOC Charges – Religious Discrimination 1998-2018



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Laws Protecting Religion in the Workplace



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I. Constitutional Foundations of Religious Protection

The Free Exercise Clause – Key Supreme Court Cases

- ***Sherbert v. Verner*** (1963) [p.2] A law that burdens an individual's religion must (1) further a compelling state interest, (2) in the least restrictive manner possible
- ***Employment Div. v. Smith*** (1990) [p.3] Free Exercise Clause creates no right to exemption from "neutral and generally applicable" laws
- ***Church of the Lukumi Babalu v. City of Hialeah*** (1993) [p.4] Local ordinances that applied only to a specific religious practice – not "generally applicable"

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