



*The Network for Public Health Law monitors key court cases and relevant judicial trends in public health. The Network's quarterly reporter, **Judicial Trends in Public Health (JTPH)**, highlights select, recently published cases in public health law and policy from the prior 3 months. Case abstracts are organized within 11 key topics (adapted from James G. Hodge, Jr., *Public Health Law in a Nutshell*, 4th ed. (2021)), including hyperlinks to the full decisions (where available).*

The JTPH Editor-in-Chief is [Kathleen Hoke, J.D.](#) Director, Network for Public Health Law Eastern Region and Professor and Director, Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law. Research Assistant, Alexander Hoogland, M.D., Maryland Carey Law Class of 2025, contributed to this edition.

[Snell v. Walz](#) (Supreme Court of Minnesota, May 10, 2024) The Supreme Court of Minnesota affirmed dismissal of a challenge to the Governor of Minnesota's power to declare a peacetime emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic under the State's Emergency Management Act. [Read the summary.](#)

[Garland v. Cargill](#) (U.S. Supreme Court, June 14, 2024) By a 6-3 vote, the Supreme Court invalidated the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) rule that classified bump stocks as "machine guns" for purposes of the National Firearms Act, which would have essentially prohibited ownership of the devices. [Read the summary.](#)

[U.S. v. Scheidt](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, June 7, 2024) The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals held that the *Bruen* Supreme Court ruling does not compel the Court to undergo a Second Amendment review of historical gun registration requirements because requirements for transaction records are not unconstitutional. [Read the summary.](#)

[Vaughn v. Bassett, et. al.](#) (U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, June 10, 2024) The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court's dismissal of inmate Vaughn's *Bivens* claim that the warden

and others violated the Eighth Amendment by denying him access to necessary medical care. [Read the summary.](#)

Kindschy v. Aish (Supreme Court of Wisconsin, June 27, 2024): The Supreme Court of Wisconsin struck down a civil harassment injunction against an anti-abortion protester because it violated the First Amendment. [Read the summary.](#)

MacDonald v. Oregon Health & Science University (U.S. District Court for Oregon, July 5, 2024) The U.S. District Court for Oregon granted summary judgment to Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), rejecting MacDonald's prima facie Title VII claim because her religious accommodation request to remain unvaccinated would have caused undue hardship to OHSU. [Read the summary](#)

Hobby Distillers Ass'n v. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, July 10, 2024) The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas granted summary judgment to overturn two regulations restricting the possession and placement of distilled spirits grains and distilling equipment, holding that the restrictions were a Congressional overstep not authorized by the Tax or Commerce powers. [Read the summary.](#)

Redd v. Amazon.com, Inc., et al. (U.S. District Court for Northern Illinois, June 4, 2024) The U.S. District Court for Northern Illinois granted summary judgment to defendant Amazon for alleged violations of the Biometric Information Protection Act (BIPA) because the contested actions are covered countermeasures protected by the Public Readiness and Emergency Response Act (PREP). [Read the summary.](#)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany v. Vullo (New York Court of Appeals, May 21, 2024): The New York Court of Appeals upheld a mandate for insurance coverage of medically necessary abortions, holding that the mandate does not violate the Free Exercise Clause because its "religious employer" exemption was generally applicable. [Read the summary.](#)

Planned Parenthood of the Heartlands, et al. v. Reynolds, et al. (Supreme Court of Iowa, July 28, 2024) The Supreme Court of Iowa reversed the district court and overturned a temporary injunction against a fetal heartbeat law, declaring that abortion is not a fundamental right in Iowa and that abortion restrictions need only be rationally related to legitimate state interests. [Read the summary.](#)

TOPICS: These and other cases are organized on the Network website under the topics below. Select a topic to view all cases under that topic.

1. [Source and Scope of Public Health Legal Powers](#)
2. [Constitutional Rights and the Public's Health](#)
3. [Preventing and Treating Communicable Conditions](#)
4. [Social Distancing Measures](#)
5. [Addressing Chronic Conditions](#)
6. [Mitigating the Incidence and Severity of Injuries and Other Harms](#)
7. [Public Health Information Management, Privacy and Security](#)
8. [Regulating Communications](#)
9. [Monitoring Property and the Built Environment](#)
10. [Public Health Emergency: Legal Preparedness and Response](#)
11. [Reproductive Liberties and Care Access](#)

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